

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

...(Interruptions)

Wednesday, November 30, 2005/Agrahayana 9, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Belgam democracy and constitution have been murdered. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to raise it. Question Hour is very important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to raise anything, please raise it after the Question Hour. I would earnestly appeal to you to sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is also sitting here. ...(Interruptions) The Government should intervene in it. ...(Interruptions) Constitutional provisions were grossly violated there. ...(Interruptions) The rights conferred by the Constitution to people are being infringed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 102 - Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear one word. If all of you speak together, I cannot hear.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are speaking together. What do you want? Please tell me.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here. We want an assurance. The life and property of the people should be safeguarded. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, this is not the time to do it. You are a very responsible Member. You are leader of your Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would earnestly appeal to you to sit down. Please take your seat. Let the Question Hour go. You have certain matters to raise. I am not ignoring them. But let us see the proper time. Let the Question Hour go. I cannot dictate him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you know very well that I cannot direct him. I would earnestly appeal to you to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to do it. Nobody can hear anything. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to you not to do this. I am sorry to say this that you are not cooperating. As a leader, you are not helping the Parliament. I am sorry to say this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? On what issue are you talking? I do not know. There is nothing about it. What are you talking about? I will not allow this type of a thing. This is very improper. What are you doing? You are the leader of your Party.

The leader of a Party is behaving in this manner! What is happening?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can carry on. I am not going to adjourn the House. Not even one word will be recorded. You can go on shouting.

\* Not recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the whole country see what is happening. If you call yourselves responsible Members, then the country should know what you are doing.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Not even one word will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody knows what is going on in this House. I do not understand what is going on now. This is the Question Hour. You are deliberately disrupting the Question Hour, holding the House to ransom. This is most despicable. I strongly condemn your attitude.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing? All of you, please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Nothing is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't want to disturb Question Hour. Please listen to me for one minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give one minute.

*[English]*

If you had cooperated with me, if you had tried to behave in a responsible manner, I would have done it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You did not even tell me anything. I do not know anything. I have no notice. I have no indication. I cannot hear what is happening.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow. I am sorry. I will not allow.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: You may disturb the House. The country is seeing how irresponsibly you are behaving.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the country takes notice of what is happening, how this House is held to ransom.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you are holding it to ransom. I do not know what you want to say. I cannot understand.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that this is not the time.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that this is not the time. You are senior Members. You have been Ministers. You were all Ministers, and you are behaving in this irresponsible manner. Is it the way of discussing the matter?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot browbeat me. You are trying to do that. You are trying to take the House for a ride. I shall cooperate with you. Yesterday, I allowed the matter to be raised.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am once again appealing to you. I am appealing you to please take your seats. Please cooperate. If you have a genuine matter to raise, I shall consider that. But this is not the way to raise a matter. You are not getting any benefit out of it.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is disturbing the Question Hour.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can have a proper discussion. I do not know anything. You have not told me anything. I have no proper notice to raise it now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seat Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav. Go to your seat please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is the bounden duty of the Government....(Interruptions) It is a very grave issue.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand what you are doing. It is a most unfortunate situation. I go to Question Hour now. Q. 102 — Shri Rewati Raman Singh.

...(Interruptions)

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### MTNL's Three in One Service

\*102. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has introduced "Three in one" service for its subscribers from November this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the service is on existing landline connections or a separate line is necessary for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the service is within the reach of average subscribers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

##### Statement

(a) and (b) Sir, MTNL has introduced high speed internet service also called Broadband Service under the name Tri Band on 14.01.2005 in both Delhi/Mumbai. The network is capable of supporting Triple play Service namely voice, data and video simultaneously on the same telephone wires. Presently, high speed Internet and telephony is available. The Video service is targeted to start by March, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Tri Band Service works on existing landline connection and no separate line is required.

(e) Yes, Sir. There are various plans for high speed internet for different needs of subscribers with monthly usage charges starting from Rs. 199/-. The video service is likely to be available starting at approximately Rs. 300/- per month.

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

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, can I know from the hon. Minister that the technique use in the "three-in one scheme" which was to be started from November is totally indigenous or imported? In case it is imported one whether any better technique then this was available. If so, the details thereof and the reasons for not importing that technique? The reasons for starting this service? Sir, earlier MARR and WLL schemes were introduced. I want to know details of those schemes from the hon. Minister as well as the technique we have developed? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you go to your seat. I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly appeal to you to please cooperate with me. This is not the way. Do you know to what level you are bringing the Parliament? I do not know anything. You have not told me anything. This is not the time to raise any issue. I never refused chance to raise

anything, but this is not the way. I am appealing to you repeatedly to cooperate with me. This is not the way to raise any matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Anant Kumar, kindly listen to me once. This is your House. You want to raise issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down? Please sit down now. Is this the time? What are you going to raise now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the House to be utilised for raising important issues.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: This is also an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I never denied you chance to raise important issues. But is this the way? You could have come to me. There is no notice for suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the respect you are showing to this House? If you had given proper notice, if you had come to me, I would have allowed. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot help you in spite of my desire to help you. I want to help you, but you do not want the help. You only want to create disturbance in the House. You are not really interested in the people.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it after the Question Hour. What are you trying to do?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for fast internet service we have introduced Broadband service through MTNL on 14th January 2005. Our aim was to introduce three type of services i.e. audio, Data and video. Audio for telephone, data for computer and video for television from November 2005. At present we are providing only two types of services i.e. fast speed internet and telephone service out of these proposed three services. It

was our proposal to provide video service from November 2005 but it has been delayed due to the agreement with Times Broadband. Now we propose to introduce this service from March 2006.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, may I request you to please use your good offices?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I earnestly request you?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will help you. I promise, I will help you, but do it in a proper manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If it is so necessary, I may consider your request, but not in this fashion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I had asked whether the technique to be used in the three in one service which was to be launched in the month of November is fully indigenous or it has been imported and whether or not any better technique was available at the time it was imported and why this technique was not developed in the country itself? They have not replied to this question. I want to bring it into your knowledge that earlier also the WLL technique was imported but that had proved a complete failure. What would be the tariff and call rates for the service which you are going to provide presently? Whether all the plans for landlines are not misguiding the subscribers?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: The equipment for the broadband is of the Ericson company which is an

established company. When we entered into agreement with it, at that time the process of its development had not started in our country. Now the ITI has started the process for its manufacturing. The service which we are providing presently is being given through the Ericson company which is a Swedish Company. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to help you. But you are only trying to disturb the House. You do not want help from the Chair. You do not want a proper discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only appeal to the Leaders to please see that the House runs properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: So far as the tariff is concerned, the subscribers will have to pay Rs. 199/- monthly for this. That would include fast internet service also. Later when the video conferencing facility would be provided, Rs. 300/- monthly would be charged. As per the WLL. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, please see that your Members are standing there. What is all this going on?

*[Translation]*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: In view of the difficulties faced earlier in the 'MRR', we have decided to provide the WLL Service as on date which is considered very effective because the cable is laid underground and it gets damaged sometime by the CPWD and sometime by the municipal corporation while they carry out the digging work for their own purpose. Where it is very difficult to lay cable we are using WLL in such areas. The MTNL is functioning in Delhi and Mumbai. I would like to assure the Hon. Member that the Government of India and the MTNL would continuously strive for giving the best internet, telephone and broadband service to the people.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: The cable cannot be laid in Rajasthan as there are hilly and desert areas. Would he give priority to WLL there?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to the MTNL and BSNL functions in Mumbai and Delhi only. And it is the BSNL which functions in the rest of the country. Nonetheless, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that in Rajasthan and other far-flung areas where difficulty is faced in laying the cable, we will provide this facility to the maximum people by using the WLL system.

*[English]*

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Sir, you are giving the latest facilities through MTNL to the metropolitan cities. Like that, is there any proposal with the Government to expand the tri-band facilities to the district headquarters in a time-bound manner?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, through BSNL, we are providing broadband services to the rural areas and to the other places of the country as well. The name of the broadband service by BSNL is 'Data One'. We are committed to provide Data One broadband service to the far-flung areas of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.S.V. Chitthan.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, I would like to put one supplementary on the next Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an infringement of rights of the people conferred on them by the Constitution. It's a case of infringement of Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. You are all very responsible Members. The way you are behaving is unprecedented.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken 25 minutes for no purpose.

...*(Interruptions)*



MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, you please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to ask a question related to the original question. Be it a mobile phone or WLL or MRR, so many phones have been installed in metros and rural areas but they are not working. Will the BSNL install its tower and transmitters. Whether better facility is also proposed to be provided in rural areas where the network is not functioning properly?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question relates to MTNL but the hon. Member has asked a question about BSNL. I would like to tell that BSNL is committed towards providing mobile and telephone facilities in larger areas, particularly in rural and remote areas. That is why the Government of India and BSNL have decided to provide towers for mobile phones at the Block Headquarters in the first phase. Our work on phase-IV is going at a rapid speed. When our Block Headquarters will be covered then

[English]

we will install BSNL mobile tower in all the villages having a population of 2000 and more.

[Translation]

The Indian Government and BSNL are committed to providing more and more facilities to our people living in villages. I would like to assure the hon. Member that as far as possible, we would provide all facilities from our side. Regarding Uttar Pradesh and other states, as one hon. Member has just asked about Rajasthan, we will try to provide facilities to more and more people by installing BSNL towers at many sites and by increasing our capacity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q.No.103, Shri Harisinh Chavdra — not present.

Q. No. 104, Shri C. Kuppusami.

**Protection of Indians in France**

\*104. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether violence, riots and racial unrest which erupted in France and adjoining countries recently were closely monitored by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of people of Indian origin, their families and properties affected due to the said violence in France, Berlin, Brussels;

(c) whether any precautions were taken to ensure that people of Indian origin and their properties are protected;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any relief centres were established in the Embassies or at any other place to provide succour to the victims of Indian origin; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We have not come across any report of any persons or families of Indian origin, or their property being affected.

(c) Our Missions were in touch with Indian community organizations and associations in various parts of France, Germany and Belgium. No untoward incidents of violence or destruction of property affecting persons of Indian origin have been reported.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: The hon. Minister in his answer has said that no person of Indian origin had been affected by these riots, though newspaper reports have said that minorities were also targeted. I would go by the answer given by the hon. Minister on the floor of the House. The violence that erupted in Paris and the suburbs in France left more than 100 cars burnt and thousands of people injured and homeless. The rampage went on for more than seven days. The miscreants lobbed petrol bombs and other arsenals on the target and they were targeting South Asians, including Indians, Muslims and African minorities. India is the champion of human rights, the struggle against racial discrimination and apartheid. Therefore, I would like to know whether such matters were taken up to the international forum. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Constitution has conferred upon the people the right to language and religion. It is a murder of the Constitution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have refused to accept my help. You are not helping the Chair nor helping the House nor helping the cause. Therefore, I am sorry. You are out only to create disruption. You have no intention to raise the issue in a proper manner.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, two teenaged youths of Muslim community in France were coming back from a game of soccer. On the way they were accosted by the police. They were fleeing from the police. While fleeing, they sought refuge in a power sub-station. While going into the power station and seeking refuge, they were electrocuted. Thereafter, in the suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, there were sporadic incidents of people burning cars and indulging in arson. But then that was only limited to that particular suburb for the next couple of days.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You put your second supplementary. What is the supplementary? He has already answered it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am earnestly appealing to you that you cannot force the Prime Minister now. I cannot force him. This is not the time. I will not allow anybody to interrupt the Question Hour. I would not allow even the Prime Minister to respond.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: It was reported that violence has once again trained the spotlight on the poverty, anger, despair and lawlessness of big city suburbs of France and raised questions about immigration policy that has created sinking ghettos for mainly African minorities who suffer from discrimination in housing, education and jobs. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether the Government of India took up the matter with the Government of France to set up any commission or committee to look into the whole matter and to see that such things are not repeated in future. I would also like to know whether any local friendship or harmony committee was formed in which

the representatives of all the communities like people of Indian origin, South Asians, African minorities and Europeans to spread the spirit of friendship, brotherhood and confidence among the people.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to this.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an out right murder of Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question related to the Constitution and the hon. Prime Minister should give reply on it. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, riots are taking place in Karnataka and Maharashtra. Does this Government want to incite riots in the two states? The Government should intervene in the matter as it is related to the constitution. It is a violation of the right conferred on the people by the Constitution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put up your question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, bring order in the House first, only then I can ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I need your help. Shri Prabhunath Singh, I shall be obliged to you if you help.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do want to ask the question but you should bring the House in order first otherwise there is no meaning of asking a question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you are a respected leader. I will request you to please interfere and help. Nothing has happened. I do not know anything. Nobody has seen me. Nobody has given notice to me.

Nobody knows what is the subject. I do not know. Suddenly some hon. Members stood up. I am appealing to all the leaders here to please see whether you are helping your cause. I would have allowed you a proper discussion. I am repeatedly offering to you. You are not even allowing me to know what is happening in this House. I am earnestly appealing to you. I need your help.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it is a very sensitive issue it is related to two states. Before the issue situation goes out of control and people at both the places face threat to life and property, hon. Prime Minister should call all party leaders meeting and consult them on the matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

The Prime Minister can call all the Party leaders. He can call all the leaders. Before the situation goes out of control, he can call a meeting.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Proper statements should be made in this regard. I have not received anything in writing in this regard.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I have been asking for one minute's time for this right from the beginning. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I would not allow. Now it is Question Hour. Can you not wait for half-an-hour?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow it now. Can you not wait for half-an-hour? Did you give any notice for suspension?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the question is that the Prime Minister should intervene. The hon. Prime Minister should intervene.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I do not want the

question hour to be suspended. I only want one minute's time to speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you trying to do? No, I am sorry. I would not allow. I would not even allow the Prime Minister to speak.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the situation goes out of control and there arises law and order problem, the matter should be addressed. It is a matter of two states and the hon. Prime Minister can call an all party leaders meeting and intervene in the matter.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has heard you. He is here. I cannot direct him.

I am appealing to you please. I would not allow him to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He needs my permission to speak. I would not allow him to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, you have heard Malhotra ji, but you do not want to hear me even for a minute. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not hear on merit.

[*English*]

What he has said.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I had appealed to him for help. Prabhunath Singhji, do you want to put a question or not?

[*Translation*]

Do you want to ask a question or not?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this indiscipline. You can take whatever action you want to take.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have total sympathy with you but this is not the way. You are distracting the House. I would not allow this. You can take any action.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please hear me out once. ...(Interruptions) The atmosphere is getting vitiated there. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, would you put a question?

[Translation]

Would you ask a question?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will put a question only if the House is in order, otherwise I will not put my question. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Many Algerians and Moroccan Indians are minorities in France. ...(Interruptions) Now, many of them wanted to return home but they are French passport holders as well as Indian passport holders also. Most of them are from Pondicherry, Karaikkal, Yanam and Mahe, ...(Interruptions) They feel insecure there. They want to come home. Will the Government give dual citizenship to them? Will the Government give insurance cover to the Indian origin people through our Indian insurance companies?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: The Government is in the process of deciding as to whether they should be given dual citizenship. ...(Interruptions) It is under the active consideration. We will see it and have it on the Table of the House. ...(Interruptions) We are in the process of taking a policy decision. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGAREM GEETE: Riots are taking place. ...(Interruptions) What is the Government doing? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Though the Government of India has taken the matter with the Government of France yet the problem being faced by the members of sikh community in France regarding wearing of turbans by them still persists in some cases. ...(Interruptions) This really hurts their sentiments. I would like to know from the Government as to what fresh steps have been taken in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGAREM GEETE: We want the Government to intervene. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: This is a different question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He will inform you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions) You are not ready to listen even for a minute. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh — not present.

Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Kindly give me a minute. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Read out your question number.

[English]

You should have learnt by this time.

...(Interruptions)

**Amendments in Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules**

\*105. † SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring amendments in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955;

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

(c) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 has failed to check manufacture and sale of adulterated food items; and

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

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

**Statement**

An Annexure indicating the amendments carried out recently as well as those under process is enclosed.

The PFA Act is implemented by the State Governments as per the information made available by various State/UT Governments, adulteration in food products is regularly checked at all the levels including at the level of manufacturers and retailers. The percentage of adulteration during last five years has been in the range of 9.21 to 11.79. The State/UT Governments have been requested from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food products and to check adulteration of food products at all the levels.

**Annexure**

*List of notifications published under PFA Act, 1954*

**(A) Final Notification:-**

Sl. No.	Notification	Subject
1	2	3
<b>2004</b>		
1	GSR 388 (E) dated 25.06.2004	Harmonization of general provision for food additives with Codex standards, revision of the standards of Biscuits, Bread, amendment to the standards of sugar boiled confectionary, chewing gums, bubbles gum and chocolates.
2	GSR 451 (E) dated 15.07.2004	Revision of definition of carbonated water specifying that the water for use in manufacture of carbonated water shall conform to the standards for packaged drinking water under PFA Rules, 1955.
3	GSR 517 (E) dated 10.08.2004	Prescribing tolerance limit for pesticide residues for 50 more pesticides in various food commodity.
4	GSR 812 (E) dated 16.12.2004	Use of food additives in edible fat, table margarine, bakery industrial margarine, edible oils and fat spread.

1	2	3
5	GSR 821 (E) dated 21.12.2004	Harmonization of standard of fish and fish product with Codex Standard and laying down microbiological parameters for sea foods.
<b>2005</b>		
1	GSR 184(E) dated 21.03.2005	Amendment to the standards of sugars, confectionary, chewing gum, bubble gum and chocolates.
2	GSR 185 (E) dated 21.03.2005	Laying down standards of fruits and vegetable products to harmonies with Codex Standards.
3	GSR 339 (E) dated 27.05.2005	Amendment to the standards of baby food to align with Infant Milk Substitute Act, 1992.
4	GSR 356 (E) dated 07.06.2005	Amendment to the standards of milk and milk products to harmonize with Codex Standards including prescribing microbiological parameter.
5	GSR 646 (E) dated 20.10.2005	Prescribing qualification of supervisor/manager/owner of eating establishment, having more than 20 working staff.
6	GSR 659 (E) dated 09. 11. 2005	Procedure for sampling from bulk container/package food item.
7	GSR 655 (E) dated 10.11.2005	Increase in sample quantity for packaged drinking water and mineral water from 3000 ml to 4000 ml for complete analysis including heavy metals, pesticide residues etc.
8	GSR (awaited) (E) dated 17.11.2005	In view of Supreme Court Judgment to struck down the power of the Food (Health ) Authority for banning sale of common salt in their States under Section 7(iv) of the PFA Act 1954, it is proposed to amend PFA Rules to put Restriction on sale of edible common salt and compulsory iodination of common salt for direct human consumption.
9	GSR (awaited) (E) dated 23.11.2005	Use of certain Food Additives as per Codex and International Numbering of each Food Additives to facilitate analysis etc.
10	GSR (awaited) (E) dated 23.11.2005	Exemption from the provisions of "best before date" for alcoholic beverages containing 10% or more by volume of alcohol.
<b>2004</b>		
1	GSR 538 (E) dated 23.08.2004	Amendment to the standards of baby food to align with Infant Milk Substitute Act, 1992.
2	GSR 536 (E) dated 23.08.2004	Exemption from the provisions of "best before date" for alcoholic beverages containing 10% or more by volume of alcohol.

1	2	3
<b>2005</b>		
1	GSR 33 (E) dated 20.01.2005	Harmonization of Standard of Spices with International Standards.
2	GSR 34 (E) dated 20.01.2005	Use of certain Food Additives as per Codex and International Numbering of each Food Additives to facilitate analysis etc.
3	GSR 37 (E) dated 20.01.2005	Harmonization of Standard of Infant foods with Codex Standards.
4	GSR 176 (E) dated 16.03.2005	Procedure for sampling from bulk container/package food item.
5	GSR 276 (E) dated 06.05.2005	Increase in sample quantity for packaged drinking water and mineral water from 3000 ml to 4000 ml for complete analysis including heavy metals, pesticide residues etc.
6	GSR 277 (E) dated 06.05.2005	Harmonization of standards of tea with International Standards.
7	GSR 314 (E) dated 16.05.2005	Harmonization of Standards of Olive Oil, high oleic safflower, sunflower oil with Codex and packaging of blended oils in bigger container.
8	GSR 340 (E) dated 27.05.2005	In view of Supreme Court Judgment to struck down the power of the Food (Health) Authority for banning sale of common salt in their States under Section 7(iv) of the PFA Act, 1954, it is proposed to amend PFA Rules to put Restriction on sale of edible common salt and compulsory iodination of common salt for direct human consumption.
9	GSR 520 (E) dated 04.08.2005	Amendment to the standard of packaged drinking water to include sea water as source of water for manufacture of packaged drinking water.
10	GSR 526 (E) dated 08.08.2005	Food Additives regarding labelling for oligofructose (dietary-fibre) on package of biscuit, bread or cakes.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Milk adulteration cases are found in large numbers across the country due to lack of stringent rules and the State Governments are unable to restrict the activities of operators. *...(Interruptions)* What steps the Government is contemplating in regard to milk adulteration rules to make it more stringent and effective? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry and I am so disappointed today.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have been appealing to you. I want to help you but will not allow you to hold the House to ransom.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is deliberate defiance of the Chair in spite of my offer to help you.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No notice has been given, no approach has been made and no intimation has been given.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

we have been requesting you again and again. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. I would not preside over the disintegration of this House. You can take whatever action you want.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am earnestly appealing to you. He has made some observations. The hon. Prime Minister has heard you. I cannot dictate to anybody. I am appealing to all the leaders to please intervene.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, which comes under the Concurrent List in the Constitution of India, whether it is food adulteration or milk adulteration, the States have the requisite capacity to take care and to prevent these adulteration methods. The Central Government frames out with the policy and supports the State Governments in taking action against adulteration.

We are now trying to strengthen the capacity of the State Governments, especially some of the food testing laboratories. Approximately 72 of them are with the State Governments. We are going through a phase of World Bank capacity building project where we are spending approximately Rs. 232 crore in modernising these labs, helping these labs and conducting of refresher training courses for food inspectors and Food Authority as well as analysts. We are supplying sophisticated equipment to the States' food labs. In fact, each lab is proposed to be linked by a centralised computer with the State Governments as well as the Central Government and we have issued the standards. So, the process is going on to modernise the labs and train the inspectors so that samples of food and milk would be lifted and tested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, I have heard the hon. Minister say that laboratories are being established. I would like to know whether private individuals and private players would be allowed to establish such laboratories so that the results would come out earlier and would be definite.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As it is, we are modernising the Government food labs. All the stakeholders

including the industry and the consumers play a vital role in regulating and preventing adulteration. But we have no plans as such for modernising private labs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot ask the hon. Prime Minister to reply. He is here. In spite of the manner in which you are raising it, I cannot ask him to respond. I am sorry, this is not the way to do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that you have no respect for the Chair. I am appealing to you with folded hands repeatedly. You have never bothered to come to me and tell me what it is. I do not know what is going on. Nobody has told me anything about it. You never bothered to come to me and tell me. I would not even permit the hon. Prime Minister to speak on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You will get an opportunity to speak at 12.00, not earlier than that.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I would hear you at twelve o' clock. Hold your patience for 20 minutes. Only 20 minutes are there. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Annasaheb Patil, please take your seat. You are a very sensible person.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.39 hrs.

*(Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is a very old Act. Does the Government propose to amend the Act? ...*(Interruptions)* In such cases there are trials by magistrate and trials by CGN where in the magistrate is empowered to award a maximum sentence of seven years. It has been seen in



the recent times that cases of food adulteration are on the rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has remained silent on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)* We stage a walkout in condemnation of the riots.

11.39 hrs.

*(Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: On the lines of oil companies being given the powers to cancel the allotment of petrol pumps in the event of any case of adulteration, whether the Government propose to handover the cases of food adulteration for trial by the Session Court which is empowered to award a life sentence in place of merely a maximum sentence of seven years. ...*(Interruptions)* Does the Government propose to carry out any such amendment?

11.40 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ananth Kumar and some other hon. Members left the House)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am putting this question again, through you. The original Act was passed in 1954, which is a long period of time. At a time when that Act was enacted there used to be a trial by CGM. A CGM is not empowered to award a sentence of more than seven years and a trial magistrate cannot award a sentence of more than three years. Nowadays it seem that adulteration in the food items is done through many ways and laboratory reports are received very late. Often, the accused persons are acquitted on technical points. I would especially like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will amend the Act to allow trial by Session court so that there could be a provision for life sentences. If there is provisions for harsh punishment it would help in curbing adulteration of food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the oil companies have made a provision that allotment of petrol pumps will be cancelled if adulteration is detected. I would like to emphasise that there is need to amend their Act. Does the Government propose to amend the Act to provide for life imprisonment by bringing in trial by Session Court. I would like to seek this information, through you.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the Government is in the process of bringing in a new integrated food law which would subsume different Acts including the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act which is going to be repealed by an integrated food law. We are going through various processes of amending the rules of the PFA Act to further strengthen it.

But coming to the legal and penal provisions, the upcoming integrated food Law, which has already been introduced in Parliament is being deliberated by the Standing Committee of Parliament. There are more stringent and penal provisions which have been put for prevention of adulteration of food and other items.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, the question was in my name. I could not ask it earlier. May I ask my supplementary now? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh, I will try to help you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI. P.C. THOMAS: Sometimes, a poor farmer having one cow is caught under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and is being punished. I do not know whether liquor comes under it or not. Liquor barons adulterate like anything. I do not know whether technically it comes under food or not. I think, it is not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: But it affects a lot of poor people. My only question is whether the law will be amended in such a manner that the big barons and big fry do not escape. The small people, just because of their ignorance or because of the density of the milk change, that also sometimes happens for a poor man, are caught under this law. Even a small vendor, a person who sells or who is a small jobholder in a small shop, sometimes faces the wrath of law. But the big person escapes. Is there any move to see that the law is amended completely so that this anomaly is dealt with very strongly and with a very strong political will?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The law is equal for the big barons as well as for the small farmers. We are in the process of a new law, integrated food law, which is coming. ...*(Interruptions)* It is going to come. As I said earlier, the Standing Committee of Parliament is deliberating it. In the new law, there is a provision of

compounding of offences whereby all offences would not be categorised under one category, where it will be deliberated upon the graveness of the offence and will be punished accordingly.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I am really thankful for giving me an opportunity.

The answer that I have received from the hon. Minister is more like answering an objective type of question 'yes' and 'no'. I think, the Act in question must be understood in its larger perspective. India is witnessing a tremendous amount of intra-country migration where people of the poor strata are leaving their homes in search of their livelihood. When they eat at small eateries and dhabas, they fall prey to all kinds of illnesses and they spend whatever they earn on their treatment.

I do not know whether this Government is serious at all on bringing about an Act which will try and ensure, more than policing it, that healthy food, unadulterated food is given to people. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he is doing in this regard. Sir, I would also like to add that this is also holding back tourism. I am sure, the hon. Minister has heard about it. Therefore, what is he doing about it?

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very clearly. Let us hear him on that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, this Act is not only about policing and creating a nuisance within the customers as well as the sellers or vendors of these foods but also creating awareness among the public as well as the vendors of street foods. We have held numerous workshops. In fact, we have had a coordinated meeting, for example, in Kolkata where the Police as well as the Municipal Corporation officials as well as the vendors of street foods were taken into confidence and a workshop was conducted. The issues on the safety of these foods, especially the water safety aspects were inculcated into them. Then, there was a smooth functioning.

In some countries like Malaysia and Thailand, they have a very perfect example about street foods vendors. Sometimes it is economically very viable and if it is taken hot, it is beneficial. All those issues are there. The only thing is we are trying to create awareness about this. It is not only about policing.

Sir, we need quality food. The Government is going through a phase. We are trying to implement the Codex

Elementary standardisation which is being followed all over the world. We have good manufacturing practices. We are trying to inculcate them. We are stringently following these Codex practices in India, which are there in the world. We are going through a phase. The PFA Rules are being amended. In the answer to the question which I have given we have gone through a number of amendments of the rules of different sectors of foods.

MR. SPEAKER: Really the question relates to amendments to the law.

SHRI ALAKESH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is related to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

MR. SPEAKER: We agreed, there will be four questions today.

SHRI ALAKESH DAS: The people's opinion is that the adulteration is continuously increasing in the case of packaged drinking water, baby food, oil, biscuits, cakes etc., and other food items. In the statement of the hon. Minister, we see that in the last five years, the percentage of adulteration has gone up from 9.21 to 11.79.

MR. SPEAKER: Put a specific question.

SHRI ALAKESH DAS: The question is - whether the PFA Act, 1954 failed to monitor the manufacture and sale of adulterated food items. I want to know whether this rate is less or high than the past years.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the PFA Act was made in 1954. After that, it has been amended thrice - in 1964, in 1976 and lastly in 1986. After that, there were a lot of amendments of the rules and regulations to make it more stringent. In the last three to four years we have lifted samples. As I said earlier in my first answer, this comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution where we do the policies and the implementation is wholly by the State Governments. They have the complete machinery of the food inspectors and the food labs and it is their responsibility to lift the samples, test it and then take remedial action. Nevertheless we are supplementing the efforts of the State Government in going about these issues. We are taking cognizance of the issue. In the last four to five years, approximately about 9 to 11 per cent of the foods have been adulterated - this adulteration is both misbranded as well as adulterated. These are the two components which come under the 9 to 11 per cent. We are trying to increase the lifting of samples as well as stringently monitor the quality of the products in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: We have travelled far away from the Question. Last Supplementary on this Question is by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Sir, You have been graceful to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a matter of gracefulness, you will get time if you keep quiet. You wouldn't if you keep making noise.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I always keep quiet and given to co-operate with you, through you the Hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is a statement of the year!

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may your grace continue as heretofore.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has told in reply to the question that he is assisting the state governments in modernizing and updating the laboratories. A lot of laboratories in Bihar are in dilapidated condition.

I want to know through you about the amount allocated during this financial year to repair, modernize and computerize those laboratories in Bihar. Two laboratories in my parliamentary constituency Patna are very important which are in a very poor condition. Please let us know the amount allocated or likely to be allocated to those laboratories.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise under this Question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as a whole, we are spending about Rs. 232 crore on modernising about 72 food testing labs of States and four Central labs. In fact, we are building five new food testing labs.

Coming to Bihar in particular, I will inform the hon. Member after collecting details specifically of his constituency and Bihar.

#### WHO Report on Chronic Diseases

\*106. <sup>+</sup>SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its recent report has given a wake up call to India to face effectively the challenges posed by the chronic diseases in the country;

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

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

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

#### Statement

WHO's Report titled "Preventing Chronic Disease - A Vital Investment" has been globally launched recently. The report points out that 80% of chronic disease deaths occur in low and middle-income countries including India. The problem of chronic disease (i.e. heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer etc.) has major adverse impact on the quality of life of affected individuals, causes premature death and creates large adverse and under appreciated economic effects on families, communities and societies in general. The low and middle income countries are expected to suffer a substantial opportunity loss in terms of their national income over the next 10 years as a result of mortality and morbidity caused by heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

The report has called upon the world community to implement comprehensive and integrated approaches that encompass interventions directed at both the whole population and individuals focusing on the common underlying risk factors cutting across specific diseases.

The Government of India has already been implementing various public health programmes both at policy

level and grass root levels, laying stress on research and training of medical personnel in the field of chronic diseases.

An Integrated National programme for the Prevention and Control of Cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes is under development.

The National Rural Health Mission launched recently also seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle for prevention of chronic diseases. This is sought to be achieved through inter-sectoral convergence, development of capacities for preventive health care at all levels for promoting healthy life styles, reduction in consumption of tobacco and alcohol etc.

The National Cancer Control Programme has been revised in 2005 and monetary ceilings for various sub-schemes of this programme, focusing on creation of awareness and provision of treatment, have been significantly raised.

Department of AYUSH has taken various steps to popularize the use of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy to focus on healthy eating and living habits.

Some of the specific steps initiated in the sphere of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases are listed below:-

- The Indian Council of Medical Research and World Health Organization have undertaken studies on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) risk factor prevalence in five centers in India.
- Under the World Bank assisted Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) which was launched in November, 2004, NCD risk factor survey is an important component.
- Standard treatment guidelines for Diabetes, Asthama and Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases have been developed.
- Tobacco, the single most important risk factor for chronic diseases, has been addressed in India through a comprehensive national law for tobacco control in April, 2003. India has also ratified the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.
- Health promotion and advocacy efforts have been taken up along with Integrated NCD prevention

programmes in various parts of India with focus on industrial population.

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the WHO has initiated follow up action on the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health which offers various avenues to increase vegetable and fruit consumption and increase physical activity.

In its efforts to promote healthy life styles and prevent chronic diseases, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has established a 'Healthy Life Style Centre' in Nirman Bhavan which offers Yoga, Gymnasium facilities and IEC materials on risk factors for chronic diseases and how to prevent them.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as on date, the total spending on healthcare is a meagre 0.9 per cent of our GDP and the Common Minimum Programme has promised to enhance this expenditure to about two to three per cent. In view of the chronic disease epidemic that India is likely to face, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken to raise the required funds to meet the staggering expenditure that is required to meet this challenge.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, hon. Member rightly informed that the health-spending today is below one per cent and the UPA under our hon. Prime Minister has promised that we will increase our spending on public health from today's 0.9 per cent to minimum two to three per cent in the next four years. In fact, rightly in the Health Budget, we had literally 33 per cent increase over the last year's Health Budget and we are implementing the National Rural Health Mission which has been inaugurated earlier this year in April. We have been implementing it in 18 States. We are going towards achieving our goal of minimum two to three per cent spending.

Coming back to chronic diseases, the WHO has informed us, in fact warned us that today there is problem of infectious diseases, communicable diseases and tomorrow there is going to be major problem of non-communicable or chronic diseases like diabetes, cardio-vascular, stroke, cancer and mental health illness. So, we are trying to have new programmes on those issues and my Prime Minister has promised that full priority will be given to the health sector and more investment in the public health sector will be envisaged.

**SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:** Sir, hon. Minister himself, on one occasion, had admitted that India is the diabetes Capital for the world and re-affirming this the WHO has already confirmed that by 2015, the diabetes-related deaths are going to be around 30 per cent. Similarly, heart diseases prevalence is going to rise by about eight to ten per cent and stroke-related diseases are going to be around 203 for every 10,000 population. Every year there are going to be fresh cases of cancer. Around eight lakh estimated cases are supposed to be repeated every year.

In view of this grim scenario, there is every necessity for us to introduce Geriatric Department in our Government hospitals and also include geriatric medicine in our MBBS curriculum. This was also recommended by MCI even as way back as September 2000. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the concrete steps taken in this direction.

**DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:** The hon. Member is right that these figures are on an increase in the case of chronic diseases, especially cardio-vascular, diabetes, stroke, mental health illnesses and cancer, and these comprise not only of geriatric patients or senior citizens but also the youngsters. We have juvenile diabetes for the school-going children and even adults also. So, we are trying to work out a comprehensive programme and integrated programme on diabetes, cardio-vascular and stroke. It is going to be a new programme and we have got in principle approval of the Planning Commission. We are going to plan out this programme on a larger scale of prevention, creating awareness, surveillance, screening, management of the disease and doing research. All these components are going to be part of this integrated programme on diabetes, cardio-vascular and stroke where we are going to reach out to the school children as well as senior citizens.

Coming back to the question about geriatrics and senior citizens, today the life expectancy in the country is 63 years. In 15 to 20 years, it is expected to be about 75 years. We are going to have a lot more senior citizens and older people in the country in the coming years and we have to take care of them. We have to change our policies and priorities in the health sector, which we are trying to do to take care of them.

In fact, we are trying to start two new Institutes for Aged/Geriatrics – one in North and one in South. We have to implement more policies for training of doctors and nurses to deal with geriatrics. We have ordered that all the Central Government Hospitals including the CGHS

Dispensaries must compulsorily have a separate queue for OPD for senior citizens. In fact, to start with, we are trying to have a separate ward or building in AIIMS for geriatrics or senior citizens, in JIPMER, Pondicherry and in PGA, Chandigarh. We are trying to do our best in this regard.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Then old men have some hopes.

**MS. INGRID MCLEOD:** The recent Survey carried out by the WHO predicts an alarming death rate. The Survey states that the number of deaths due to chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart ailments in India may reach a staggering 54.66 lakhs this year itself. Irrespective of the Survey and studies, what are the emergency steps that have been taken to provide effective relief in the next 30 to 40 days?

**DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:** This is a chronic disease and we have not envisaged any programme to be taken up in the next month or so. These are chronic diseases and we have to tackle them. Firstly, like I said, we have to create massive awareness amongst the public at large. We are already doing that through IEC activities to promote a healthy lifestyle and healthy food. In fact, for the hon. Members of Parliament, last year, we had conducted a Health Camp where about 365 Members of Parliament had attended that Camp. We had included Yoga, Allopathy, Ayurveda and all other related things. We need to modify our lifestyle, and we need to implement more policies. These policies will have to be implemented not only by the Health Ministry but also by the Ministry of Urban Development, which can provide for more space for walking, etc. We are trying to do our best in this regard.

**DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, mainly diseases related to heart, diabetes and cancer have been listed as chronic diseases. Recently, an important international conference was held on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The fact remains that a vast majority of our people are suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Bronchitis and Asthma. Is the Government aware of this fact? What are the concrete steps which the Government is taking to control COPD?

Part 'b' of my question relates to the Integrated National Programme for prevention and control of cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your time will be over and you will not get an answer.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: While taking up this programme, I would like to know whether the Government is considering to include rheumatic heart disease or not.

MR. SPEAKER: That is your favourite question, Mr. Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The hon. Member who is my good friend, Dr. Dome is from my profession, has put out a pertinent question about COPD. In fact, today we do not have any specific programme for COPD as such. We have a programme for Tuberculosis, but the causes of COPD are different. More than anybody else, you are aware of that, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Direct knowledge.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We are trying to take steps to create awareness as such. Through the Integrated Programme on Diabetes, Cardio-vascular and Stroke, we are trying to create more awareness and prevention screening modules. Coming back to rheumatic heart disease, that also will be a component in this Integrated Programme on Diabetes, Cardio-vascular and Stroke.

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one minute left. Do you want to put a question, Shri Md. Salim?

MD. SALIM: I want to ask a supplementary on the next question.

#### **Performance of MTNL**

\*107. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has failed to achieve the target fixed in Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) for growth in its subscriber base;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the projected revenue and the revenue actually earned by the MTNL during the last three years;

(d) whether the MTNL also could not achieve the target of other physical and financial parameters relating to procurement, installation, commissioning and performance of various equipments;

(e) if so, whether the MTNL has suffered a loss to the tune of Rs. 97.20 crore as a result thereof; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the projected targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) No, Sir. While no specific targets for CMTS have been fixed for 2004-05, a total of 5.21 lakhs CMTS subscribers have been added. The market share in cellular mobile services in MTNL Mumbai & Delhi has reached to 15.4% and 13.17% respectively in October, 2005 from 5.25% and 6.73% in March, 2004.

(c) Projected revenue and revenue actually earned during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Projected Revenue (in Crores)	Actual Revenue earned (in Crores)
2002-2003	6458.00	6030.66
2003-2004	6210.00	6683.93
2004-2005	5568.00	6084.10

(d) Position relating to achievement of physical and financial targets as reflected in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 2004-05 are given in the Annexure.

(e) No, Sir. MTNL has made a profit after tax of Rs. 938.97 Crore during 2004-05.

(f) Some of the steps taken by MTNL are as follows:-

- (i) Expanded the capacity of CMTS by 4 lakh lines each in Delhi and Mumbai.
- (ii) Adequate capacity and availability of service on demand has been ensured.
- (iii) General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and other value added services have been introduced.
- (iv) Broadband service based on latest Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) and plus technology has been introduced.

Periodical review of the performance of MTNL is being done.

**Annexure****1. Performance in respect of Static Financial Parameters**

Criteria	MoU Target	Achievement
1. Gross Margin/Gross Block (%)	11.96	13.42
2. Net Profit/Networth (%)	6.14	9.05
3. Gross Profit/Capital Employed (%)	9.30	11.04
4. Gross Margin (Rs. in crore)	1941.45	1895.88
5. Gross Sales (Rs.in crore)	6461.70	5615.42
6. PBDIT/Total Employment (Rs.)	331878	343233
7. Added value/Gross Sales (%)	1.22	-4.18

**2. Performance in respect of Sector Specific Physical Parameters**

Criteria	MoU Target	Achievements		
		Delhi	Mumbai	Total
1. To provide New Connections including Fixed line, WLL & Cellular	450 K	84.056 K	234.941 K	318.997 K
2. Provisioning of net Switching capacity including capacity for WLL & GSM	830K	358.920 K	464.000 K	822.92 K
3. To provide new TAX/Tandem lines	187 K	45.000 K	71.240 K	116.24 K
4. Commissioning of DLCs	410	122	262	384
5. Provision of leased circuits	1500	2034	1223	3257
6. Roll-out of PCOs in Delhi & Mumbai	1400	12078	28044	40122
7. Optical Fibre in fibre K.M.	18000	19421.40	11360.31	30781.71

12.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Sir, the reply given by the Minister is not acceptable. This non-plan scheme was taken up and many ITS personnel were engaged at high profile salaries. In spite of that the project failed. It is also clear that this situation has arisen because of bad implementation and payment of high profile salaries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by the concerned authorities in this regard.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, we do not agree with the observation made by the hon. Member, MTNL has not suffered any loss last year. Actually MTNL has made a profit of Rs.938.97 crore in the year 2004-05. They have also achieved the projected revenue. In the year 2003-04, the projected revenue was Rs.6210 crore and the actual revenue earned was Rs.6683.93 crore. In 2004-05, projected revenue was Rs.5568 crore and revenue earned

was Rs.6084.10 crore. So, we do not agree with the hon. Member on this. We are trying to make MTNL as wider and as effective as possible. The Government is committed to that.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[Translation]

**Improving Services of CGHS Dispensaries**

\*103. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries do not get adequate treatment from dispensaries under CGHS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount by way of subscription collected from the beneficiaries during the last two years;

(d) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the C.G.H.S. during the last two years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the services of CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir. CGHS dispensaries are providing adequate services to its beneficiaries.

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

(c) The CGHS has collected Rs.57.94 crores and Rs.66.42 crores during 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(d) The expenditure incurred by the CGHS is Rs.500.32 crores and Rs.581.19 crores during last two years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(e) The Government has initiated action to procure 463 proprietary drugs and 258 generic drugs. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries is improving further.

Government has also constituted a Committee headed by a former Cabinet Secretary to review the functioning of the CGHS and for giving recommendations to make it more user friendly. This Committee has invited comments/suggestions from pensioners and other Welfare Organisations.

The system of clearing medical reimbursement claims has been decentralized in Delhi and the beneficiaries are no more required to visit the CGHS Headquarter at Nirman Bhavan and instead, deposit their claim for hospitalization etc. in the respective dispensaries. Such claims are sent to the respective Zonal Additional Directors for processing and making payment. This system has substantially reduced the pendency of medical reimbursement claims in respect of pensioner beneficiaries.

NIC has been mandated to develop a software for computerizing the working of CGHS dispensaries especially inventory management and claims processing.

#### **Increase in Terrorist Activities by Pakistan**

\*108. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorist activities/infiltration from Pakistan have increased manifold during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has raised/proposes to raise the above matter at any international forum; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the various countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) While Pakistan has taken some steps to control cross-border infiltration, these have not been enough and lately there have been a spate of violent attacks and bomb blasts aimed at civilians and political figures.

(c) India has conveyed to Pakistan, at the highest level, that the current peace process between the two countries would be undermined unless Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side. Pakistan needs to take these steps in fulfilment of the commitment given by it in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004 that it would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

(d) Government has been keeping the international community informed of developments in this regard on a continuing basis as part of the global war against terrorism.

[English]

#### **Disease Surveillance Authority**

\*109. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public health authorities failed to predict and prevent the recent outbreaks of diseases in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no disease surveillance authority in the country to provide early warning signals of outbreaks of diseases; and



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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Disease surveillance and response on a day to day basis is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. In the case of outbreaks, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by deputing teams of experts for investigations and assessment of the measures taken by the State Government. The statement indicating details of recent outbreak of Meningococemia in Delhi, Jaundice in Andhra Pradesh and Dengue and cholera in Karnataka is enclosed.

In the case of Meningococcal Disease in and around Delhi, the situation was monitored at the Ministry on day to day basis. The situation was reviewed daily with the officials of NICD, Central Government Hospitals, Government of NCT of Delhi, MCD and NDMC etc. The Central Expert Teams conducted clinico-epidemiological investigations to assist the State Government in instituting Public Health measures. The case definitions, guidelines on vaccination, chemoprophylaxis and laboratory diagnosis of meningococcal disease were prepared in consultation with WHO and national experts and circulated to all concerned.

In the case of the Jaundice outbreak in Old Hyderabad city, a central team of Epidemiologists, Microbiologists and clinicians was deputed to investigate

the same. The outbreak mainly affected two Wards in Charminar Municipal Division and was due to Hepatitis E and A. Preventive measures, like chlorination of all drinking water sources, active surveillance, organization of medical camps and health education were initiated by the State Government.

As regards the outbreak of Dengue and Cholera in two districts of Karnataka, the public authorities of the State took steps like monitoring the safety of drinking water, mosquito/larvae density survey, insecticidal spraying, health education etc.

The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is the nodal institution for surveillance and outbreak investigation in the country. Under its aegis, an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) is being implemented since November, 2004, which would cover the entire country in phases. This project seeks to set up a decentralized early warning system for communicable and non-communicable diseases so that timely and effective public health actions can be initiated. The IDSP is supported with appropriate information technology network for quick transmission of data to/from the field surveillance unit. The project seeks to maintain ongoing surveillance of specific diseases by identifying cases on syndromic (diagnosed on basis of clinical pattern), presumptive (Diagnosed on basis of typical history and clinical examination) as well as confirmed (after appropriate laboratory tests) basis. Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, case definitions of common illness have been drafted and widely disseminated.

#### **Statement**

##### *Meningococemia in Delhi, Jaundice in Andhra Pradesh & Dengue and Cholera in Karnataka*

S.No.	State	Disease	Cases	Death	Case Fatality
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Jaundice (Hepatitis A/E)	1730	3	0.17%
2.	Delhi	Meningococemia	441	60	13.60%
		Dengue	625	4	0.64%
3.	Karnataka	Dengue	436	13	2.98%
		Cholera (in Hukkeri, Belgaum)	576	18	3.12%

#### **Coverage of Rural Population under Health Care**

\*110. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Taluk Hospitals cater to only 20 per cent of the rural population;

- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better health care to the rural people; and
- (d) the fund earmarked to organize the health camps under the National Rural Health Mission during 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Primary Health Care Services are being implemented in the country through a three-tier network of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Sub-centres (SCs) system and is based on the following population norms:-

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal/ Difficult Area
Sub-Centre	5000	3000
Primary Health Centre	30,000	20,000
Community Health Centre	1,20,000	80,000

According to National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (NCMH), health services during 1986-96 have shown a decrease in the utilization of public facilities for outpatient care from 26% to 19%. The data is based on the 52nd round survey of NSSO.

(c) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 2005-06 for the entire country with focus on 18 states. Its objective is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities specially to the rural poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The Mission also aims to bridge the gap of rural health care services through creation of cadre of 2.5 lakh Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), improved hospital care, Intra and Inter-sectoral Convergence and effective utilization of resources. Besides, Mission also aims to implement its programmes by community involvement through Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders. The other strategies are strengthening of sub-centres, raising CHCs to Indian Public Health standards (IPHS), mainstreaming of AYUSH, strengthening immunization, implementation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) for improving institutional deliveries, supply of additional generic drugs to SCs/PHCs/

CHCs and also to provide insurance cover in the course of implementation of NRHM strategies.

(d) Under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme, based on the needs of the states as reflected in their Programme Implementation Plan (PIP), the funds would be released for organizing health camps.

#### Space Programmes

\*111. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has drawn up any space programmes for the next decade including moon-landing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these programmes will be a joint venture with any of the space club countries; and
- (d) if so, the details of the countries with which India has signed MoU; or yet to sign MoU in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Department of Space has drawn up a long-term plan for the space research programme identifying the goals, programme directions and technology requirements. An instrumented unmanned moon mission Chandrayaan-1 has already been approved as a part of Tenth Five Year Plan programmes. Moon-landing mission is not a part of programmes approved up to 2010.

(b) The overall thrust of the space programme during the next decade will be to sustain and strengthen the space based services in a self-reliant manner towards fulfilling the communications and socio-economic needs of the country and further upgrade and enhance the space technological capabilities in the areas of satellites, launch vehicles and associated ground segments. The programme envisages development of advanced launch vehicle systems; developing capabilities in space communications towards meeting the development and disaster management support; maintain the leadership in earth observation systems with enhanced imaging capabilities for natural resource management applications and disaster management support; and undertake front ranking research in the areas of space science, astronomy and planetary exploration.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. India's space programme is self-reliant. However, as a part of international cooperation, India has signed MoUs with 24 countries including France, Germany, Italy, Russia and USA and two international space agencies viz., European Space Agency (ESA) and European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), covering the areas of space science research, environment and climate.

[Translation]

#### Use of Banned Cardiac Stents

\*112. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cardiac stents which were banned by the manufacturers in foreign countries are being freely used in hospitals in the country as reported in The Navbharat Times dated July 27, 2005;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to stop the use of these stents in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to enact law to check import of such stents in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): According to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, there are basically two broad categories of stents in use for coronary artery diseases – medicated and non-medicated. The stents referred in the question pertains to medicated stents – i.e. stents coated with drugs like rapamycin and paclitaxel which help to reduce incidence of restenosis. Two of these stents approved for commercial human use by FDA (USA) are cipher end Taxus made by J & J (Cordis) and Boston Scientific respectively. Besides these Stents, three other stents are being sold under CE mark in Europe. Rest of the medicated stents are neither FDA nor CE marked. However, they are not BANNED and are to be used under investigational category after proper approvals from competent authority.

The cardiac stents are used by the medical specialists on the basis of their experience and knowledge about their functional adequacy. In order to exercise control over certain medical devices of critical nature, the Government

of India on 6.10.2005 has published a Gazette notification declaring certain sterile medical devices including cardiac stents as drugs under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

#### Alleged Misutilisation of Funds by Sports Federations

\*113. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Federations have been allotted funds for improving the performance and practices of sports persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many Sports Federations have misused the funds allocated to them during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken any action against such Federations for misutilisation of funds during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided to the recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for training and participation in international sports events abroad, holding of national championships for sub-junior, junior and senior categories, organization of international tournaments in India, procurement of equipment, training of sportspersons/teams under Indian and foreign coaches and reimbursement of salary of Assistant and Joint Secretaries of NSFs. Apart from this, requisite scientific and technical back-up is also provided to sportspersons/teams. Details of financial assistance given to National Sports Federations during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (g) The NSFs are autonomous registered bodies under different State Governments and the Government of India does not interfere in their day-to-day functioning. On receipt of complaints about misappropriation of funds in an NSF, facts are ascertained from the concerned NSF and Sports Authority of India (SAI). The complaint is processed and necessary action taken. In one instance it has been decided to seek refund of the Government grant released along with interest thereon as the expenses incurred were not in accordance with the sanction.

To ensure proper utilization of Government grants released to NSFs, the ministry insists on submission of utilization certificates and audited accounts. Further grants for an event is released only after settlement of accounts of previous similar event. Moreover, sanction has also been issued for audit of accounts of NSFs receiving government assistance exceeding Rs.1.00 crore by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

**Statement**

**Recognized National Sports Federations**

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Federation	2002-03	2003-04	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	15.01	6.63	14.25
2.	All India Chess Federation	116.81	166.82	111.90
3.	All India Football Federation	27.95	15.99	119.36
4.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	15.11	0	0
5.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	8.72	11.78	30.02
6.	Amateur Athletics Federation of India	90.70	70.25	215.08
7.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	7.00	16.00	12.50
8.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	14.75	17.75	14.00
9.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	17.37	34.86	25.00
10.	Archery Association of India	26.26	68.83	58.95
11.	Atya Patya Federation of India	12.00	16.50	7.50
12.	Badminton Association of India	131.55	159.81	160.16
13.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	12.40	10.50	5.50
14.	Basketball Federation of India	32.33	43.86	49.61
15.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	30.09	24.16	23.52
16.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	12.51	10.00	6.75
17.	Cycle Federation of India	26.40	28.08	16.38
18.	Equestrian Federation of India	68.06	25.39	32.76

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Fencing Association of India	80.66	19.60	17.07
20.	Gymnastics Federation of India	126.87	36.01	18.88
21.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	89.85	108.42	81.28
22.	Indian Body Building Federation	0.50	0	0
23.	Indian Golf Union	33.44	18.54	32.48
24.	Indian Hockey Federation	70.17	128.78	194.21
25.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	20.86	27.21	16.06
26.	Indian Olympic Association	444.92	58.77	1241.45
27.	Indian Polo Association	1.77	202.42	1.62
28.	Indian Power lifting Federation	12.00	17.50	13.00
29.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	34.88	59.95	79.88
30.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	35.10	30.87	110.35
31.	Judo Federation of India	29.87	44.36	56.37
32.	Kho-kho Federation of India	14.50	12.50	18.92
33.	Korfball Federation of India	13.34	11.50	12.50
34.	All India Tennis Association	70.85	59.18	136.87
35.	National Rifle Association of India	174.36	174.55	218.37
36.	Netball Federation of India	12.00	16.46	7.50
37.	Roller Skating Federation of India	0	9.00	15.00
38.	Rowing Federation of India	36.43	48.39	118.43
39.	School Games Federation of India	14.85	19.62	0
40.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	12.00	10.00	7.50
41.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	0	21.00	12.00
42.	Softball Federation of India	16.99	10.00	14.00
43.	Squash Racket Federation of India	96.47	18.59	119.37
44.	Swimming Federation of India	46.03	60.13	11.76
45.	Table Tennis Federation of India	71.01	74.91	116.78
46.	Taekwondo Federation of India	17.57	23.22	6.00

1	2	3	4	5
47.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	12.00	11.50	10.50
48.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	16.50	12.00	7.00
49.	Tug of War Federation of India	16.50	11.50	12.50
50.	Volleyball Federation of India	50.61	76.55	32.17
51.	Women Cricket Association of India	3.00	0	5.00
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	109.77	234.89	225.35
53.	Yachting Association of India	105.49	159.88	159.88
54.	Wushu Association of India	7.50	1.50	10.50
55.	Winter Games federation of India	2.12	12.27	9.64
<b>Total</b>		<b>2565.8</b>	<b>2568.88</b>	<b>4053.43</b>

#### Arrangements for DNA Test

\*114. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether arrangements for D.N.A. test have been made in various hospitals of Delhi for identification of the persons died in the recent bomb blasts in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make available necessary facilities for undertaking D.N.A. tests in all the State capitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from Delhi Police, arrangements for DNA test have been made for the identification of unidentified dead bodies and few body parts kept in Safdarjung Hospital (three bodies) and AIIMS Mortuary (two bodies) by the Police Station, Sarojini Nagar. A team of experts deputed by Delhi Police have visited these hospitals and samples for DNA tests were collected from these unidentified dead bodies and 11 body parts kept in these hospitals. Apart from this, blood sample of 17 claimants (relatives of victims) have also been taken and

all the exhibits sent to Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini, for analysis. No DNA test was conducted on dead bodies of Pahar Ganj bomb blast case as all the dead bodies were identified by their relatives.

At present, no proposal for making available facilities for undertaking DNA tests in all the State Capitals is under consideration in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

#### Integrated Transport Policy

\*115. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to formulate an integrated transport policy to ply Metro Trains, Sky Buses, Mono Rails, Battery-run Buses and adopt the electricity run tram System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of the said transport policy; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government of India is in the process of formulating a National Urban Transport Policy that seeks to promote the use of all proven technologies for mass transit and offers viability gap funding from the Central Government

for such projects. It also seeks to promote the use of public transport as well as integrated land use and transport planning.

The draft policy is at present under consideration of the Government.

*[English]*

**Report of National Commission on Macro Economics & Health**

\*116. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

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

(a) whether the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health set up by the Government to review the state of country's health has submitted any report;

(b) If so, the details of the recommendations/ findings of the Commission;

(c) whether the Government has examined and accepted the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Macro Economics and Health has submitted its report. The terms of reference of the Commission included among others, a critical appraisal of the present health system – both in the public and the private sector – and suggesting ways and means of further strengthening it with the specific objective of improving access to a minimum set of essential health interventions to all. It was also intended that the Commission would look into the issue of improving the efficiency of the delivery system and encouraging public-private partnerships in providing comprehensive health care. The conclusions and the recommendations of the Commission are given in the enclosed statement.

As would be evident from the recommendations, these cover a wide range of issues in the health sector. The Commission themselves have recommended that task

forces consisting of knowledgeable and eminent people and representatives of stake-holders be constituted to detail out the issues, the operational plans and financial implications. For issues requiring an inter-sectoral perspective, they have recommended constitution of a Group of Ministers.

The recommendations of the Commission are currently under consideration for constitution of appropriate task groups.

**Statement**

**Conclusions & Recommendations of the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health**

**Investing in Health**

1. Evidence shows that investment in health can and does contribute to economic growth. Therefore investing in health is investing in economic development and equitable growth.
2. Increase investment in a basket of goods consisting of strategies for poverty alleviation, health, nutrition in particular micronutrients through production incentives, affordable prices and promoting R&D to produce fortified foods; safe drinking water and sanitation, rural road network and female education.

**Disease Burden in India**

3. India is reeling under a dual burden of disease with unacceptably high levels of communicable and infectious diseases/conditions related to reproductive health, and an emergence of chronic and non-communicable diseases.
4. An exhaustive causal analysis however clearly demonstrates the efficacy of preventive and low-cost solutions to avert disease and death, making a strong case for shifting priority for public investment to focus on prevention of disease and promoting good health values.
5. Increase spending on health promotion – at least 10% to 20% of the public sector budget should be earmarked for public health activities.

**Delivery of care**

6. Mismatch in goals and strategies and management failure at various levels of decision-making and

implementation are reasons for the poor performance of public health systems.

7. The growth of the private sector has been phenomenal due largely to the dysfunctional nature of the public health system, But the private sector has by and large failed to provide quality care at a reasonable cost.
8. By aligning the finances, functions and functionaries with the services to be provided at each of the facilities, efficiencies can be improved. For this, mapping of all facilities should be undertaken and facilities should be relocated based on workload norms, community preferences and distance norms. Thus the access to the first contact for care should be within 30 minutes; inpatient care within 60 minutes; an EmOC facility within 2 hours; and a specialist in 2-4 hours etc.
9. Improve efficiencies of public facilities by having utilization norms such as 40 OP per doctor in a PHC/CHC and 75% occupancy rate for IP care, etc.
10. Integrate CHC as the health administrative unit and gatekeeper for referrals to higher facilities and have the PHC focus on health promotion, emergency care and women's health; and professionalize the management of public facilities by having trained hospital managers.
11. Formulate Public Health Laws for the range of issues in the health sector.
12. Professionalize health management and administration. By an Act of Parliament the following institutions should be established:
  - (i) Federal Drug Authority (ii) Indian Medical Devices and Technology Authority (iii) National Commission for Quality Assurance (iv) National Commission for Medical and Health Education and (v) Hospital Financing Corporation.
13. Strengthen the mechanisms for enforcement of laws related to quality assurance, disease surveillance and public health measures, quality of education and drug and food safety.

#### Human Resources

14. The biggest impediment to achieve health goals will

be human resources, both in terms of availability as well as expertise.

15. To meet the growing demand for physicians it is necessary to increase the number of medical colleges and nursing schools. Priority should be given to reducing the existing inequity by establishing 60 medical colleges in the deficit states of UP, MP and Bihar.
16. Establish 6 Schools of Public Health besides upgrading those already in existence in the country - public and private.
17. Likewise an additional estimated 3.25 lakh nurses would be required by 2015. For this it is necessary to establish an additional 225 nursing colleges and upgrade the existing ones.
18. The Medical Council of India and State Medical Councils as also the Nursing Council of India have failed to carry out the mandate provided to them for regulating the profession and raising the standards of medical education and enforcing them. Thus it is essential that the MCI/NCI act be amended to allow for civil society representation in the Council.
19. The MCI should restrict itself to regulating undergraduate education with the postgraduate education being monitored separately by another body. Similar concerns exist for the functioning of the professional councils of the departments of AYUSH.
20. There is a need to establish a Commission for Human Resource Development and Medical and Health Education for promoting excellence in health care and human resources for health.
21. A live register and database needs to be maintained for all categories of medical and paramedical personnel and regularly updated by the respective professional councils. A system of re-registration of doctors and nurses once every five years and linking re-registration with minimum number of hours of continuing medical education (CME) should be introduced.
22. An All India Cadre of Public Health should be established on the lines of the IAS/IPS.
23. Sufficient incentives, financial and non-financial should be given for attracting medical teachers to



join and continue in pre – and paramedical specialties in medical colleges. In addition, non – MBBS postgraduate seats may be increased in these specialties. Teachers in medical colleges and nursing training institutions should be provided fellowships for undertaking higher studies and provided incentives for undertaking research.

24. The number of seats in specialties such as Anesthesiology, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry and Community Medicine should be increased.
25. Multiskilling of MBBS doctors with 9 months post graduate certificate training at the district hospitals in the scarce specialty would enhance availability of the required skills at the community health centers and help bridge the gaps in specialist care in rural areas.
26. There is a need to formulate and implement a national strategic plan for nursing and midwifery development, as done in Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka etc. For developing leadership skills among nurses the government should invest in multidisciplinary leadership and management development programmes for nurses and midwives.
27. Institute 1000 fellowships for research and higher education in various fields of public health, nursing, medical management etc. for faculty positions in the various schools and autonomous bodies proposed. 25% of these should be earmarked for PhD and post graduate studies and be open to government employees, universities, research institutions and so on.

#### **Integrating the AYUSH system**

28. Constitute an independent regulation to assess and monitor quality aspects of AYUSH practice.
29. Amend the Act that defines 'medical practitioner' in the Indian Medical Council Act to the MBBS degree holders, disqualifying the 5 lakh degree holders of AYUSH systems registered under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act 1970 and Central Council of Homeopathy Act of 1972 of the Government of India. Suitable changes in the IMC Act will help in the expansion of this resource.

30. A coordinated programme of participatory clinical research should be launched by the ICMR, CSIR to validate the best practices in traditional systems of health care.
31. Functional collaboration of ISM with modern medicine may be facilitated at the PHC level.
32. Formulation of an integrated national approach for the management of HIV/AIDS similar to the model in China and undertaking systematic research on specific aspects related to HIV and the role of ISM are required.
33. The promotion of ISM herbal gardens under the Gram Aushadhi Udyan Cooperative farms and Gram Aushadhi Nirman programmes must be developed in at least 10,000 villages; the village healers identified, skills assessed, enhanced and utilized in the integrative model.
34. Establish a coordinating body for a single window approach to undertake clinical trials under all systems of medicine.

#### **Access to affordable drugs**

35. Expand price control of all drugs and mandate use of only generic drugs in all public funded programmes.
36. Weed out irrational drugs and irrational combination drugs to substantially reduce household drug expenditures.
37. A minimum VAT of 1% as against the proposed 4% should be levied for essential drugs.
38. Fix ceilings on trade margins as suggested by the interim report of the Sandhu Committee.
39. Centralized pooled procurement reduce government expenditure by over 30% - 50%. The adoption of the TNMSC model should take place throughout the country.
40. The recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee regarding setting up of the National Drug Authority (NDA) with an autonomous status to take up the functions of drug pricing, quality, clinical trials, etc. need to be implemented. Consequently the present National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) could be merged with the proposed NDA and Central

Government provided assistance to states for strengthening the drug regulatory system.

41. The Patent Act passed recently needs to clarify the scope of patentability; reasonableness of royalty to be paid on the issuance of compulsory licensing; definition of 'significant' for the Indian companies manufacturing these drugs, mechanisms for automatic compulsory licensing and strengthening of the regulatory bodies to ensure that drug security is enhanced.

#### Access to modern technology

42. Regulate the proliferation of technology and reduce the clustering of high-end technology by establishing the norms and requirements of certificate of need by the public health authority.
43. Public sector should shift to contracting the private sector more for diagnostic services as it is more cost effective.
44. Establish the Indian Medical Devices Authority and implement the recommendations of the High Level Committee constituted for the purpose by the ICMR and INSA. The membership should consist of representation from DST, CSIR, INSA, DRDO, IT etc.
45. Introduce and intensively promote use of IT in health care for patient care in 3 areas: (i) Telemedicine (ii) Computerized data management and record keeping (3) Training through the Edusat facility.

#### Financing of health

46. The systems of health financing in India are archaic and need overhauling.
47. Constitute an Expert Group to evaluate the current system of budgeting and harmonize the accounting needs of the Finance Department and the operational requirements of the implementing agencies at all levels.
48. All spending departments must have a budget line with major and minor heads on the nature of health spending.
49. Standardization of treatment protocols and unit cost estimations should be taken up and a schedule of benefits published.

#### Organizational and financial restructuring

50. Public spending be increased from the current level of 1.2% to 3% of GDP.
51. Increase public investment to primary health care for providing universal access to a basic package of services at CHCs and facilities below it alongside reorganizing the structure for enhancing accountability and increased sharing of oversight functions by the communities and local bodies.
52. Restructure the financing system to fund packages of health care: core packages, basic health packages and packages for secondary care.
53. Upscale the investment of public health education and information from the current levels to reach 20% of the government health spending. To start with allocate at least Rs 50 per capita per year or 5% of the budget, whichever is more on prevention of disease and promotion of health values.
54. Gradually shift towards a mandatory Universal Health Insurance System for secondary and tertiary care.
55. Merge CGHS and ESIS and re-constitute as a Social health Insurance Corporation of India.
56. Government subsidy for rural communities and urban poor should be 30% of the premium provided as an incentive to those having 70% enrolment.

#### Increasing accountability and focusing on monitoring

57. Increase performance – based accountability by improving monitoring through concurrent sample surveys, social audit and institutionalizing community management.
58. Shift greater managerial and financial autonomy to provider units which could be formed into Public Trust Hospitals.

#### Investing in Health: Financing the way forward

59. The amount required for implementing the Way Forward is estimated to be about Rs 74,000 crores of which about Rs 33,000 crores is for capital investment. About Rs 9000 crores is the estimated amount that may be required to be spent towards premium subsidy for the poor.

60. Need for a comprehensive approach to raising resources for increasing the spending on health and related sectors of water, sanitation, nutrition and primary schooling from the current level of 2.7% of GSDP to 9.7% - an increase of 7% of GSDP over the next few years.

#### Way Forward

61. Task Forces consisting of knowledgeable and eminent people and representing all stakeholder groups be constituted to detail out the issues, the operational plans and financial implications.
62. On issues requiring an intersectoral perspective a Group of Ministers may be constituted to deliberate the various policy issues.

#### Setting up of Information Commission

\*117. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Information Commission in each State under the Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such Commissions are likely to be set up in the country;
- (c) whether the Act mandated that the departments should publish their organisational and functional details within 100 days of its enactment;
- (d) if so, the number of States and Union Territories which implemented the Act in totality;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has framed rules under the Act;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether the Government is considering to simplify the procedures in practice in decision making in ministries and departments; and
- (i) 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 PACHOURI): (a) to (e) The Right to Information Act, 2005 casts a statutory obligation on every State Government, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir to which the Act is not applicable, to constitute its own State Information Commission, by 12th October, 2005 on which date the Act fully came into force. Section 4(1) (b) of the Act casts upon every public authority a duty to publish within one hundred twenty days from the date of enactment, certain organisational and functional details as provided therein.

As per information presently available, 13 States have implemented the RTI Act by taking action under section 4, 5 and 15 of the Act. Union Territories fall under the jurisdiction of Central Information Commission which has already been constituted.

(f) and (g) The Central Government has notified the following rules in order to carry out the provisions of the Act, namely:

- (i) Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005;
- (ii) Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) (Amendment) Rules, 2005; and
- (iii) Central Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2005

These Rules provide for fee to be paid for access of information and procedures to be adopted in deciding the Appeal by the Central Information Commission. These Rules have been notified in official gazette vide GSR 336 dated 1.10.05, GSR 649 (E) dated 27.10.05 and GSR 650(E) dated 28.10.05 respectively.

(h) and (i) Review of the practices in decision making process is a continuous process in order to simplify and make them user-friendly.

#### Withdrawal of Recognition of Medical Degrees

\*118. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian students who obtained medical degrees from the colleges in erstwhile USSR;
- (b) whether a team of the Medical Council of India (MCI) which visited USSR detected several

deficiencies in the standard of medical education of the colleges where Indian students have been studying and recommended withdrawal of recognition of degrees of such institutions; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per the information obtained from Medical Council of India, the Council has no information on the number of Indian students who obtained medical degrees from colleges in erstwhile U.S.S.R.

Various references were received from different sources including MCI on the deterioration in the standards of Medical Education in several institutions abroad including USSR. The Government, therefore, amended the provisions of IMC Act, 1956 through the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001. As per the amendments and the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 framed thereunder, any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Councils on or after 15th March, 2002, shall have to qualify in the Screening test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be a recognized medical qualification for enrollment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India.

#### Reproductive Health Problems

\*119. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the reproductive health problems are the biggest cause of women's ill health and mortality in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to check pregnancy related deaths;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the policy adopted by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has any programme to train Midwives in rural areas where most of the cases have been noticed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years are more vulnerable to morbidity and mortality due to causes related to pregnancy, and childbirth, The Data provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS-1998), of the Registrar General of India indicates that the Maternal Mortality Ratio in India (MMR) was 407 per 100,000 live births is given in the enclosed statement.

The main causes of maternal deaths are:

1. Direct Causes: Hemorrhage, infections, Obstructed Labour, Unsafe Abortion, Toxemia of Pregnancy etc.,
2. Indirect Causes: Anemia, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Malaria
3. Socio economic causes: Early age of marriage, adolescent pregnancy, low status of women, low level of female education, lack of access to health services, gender bias and economic dependency,

The National Population Policy – 2000 and the National Health Policy – 2002 of Government of India have laid down specific goals for bringing down the maternal mortality rate to less than 100 by the year 2010.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care. The Reproductive & Child Health Programme which aimed at improving women and child health and bringing down maternal mortality is a component of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The NRHM seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

Under the NRHM, the important strategies for bringing down Maternal Mortality are, promotion of institutional deliveries and skilled attendance at birth, upgrading

primary health centers for 24 hour delivery services, operationalising the first referral units for providing emergency obstetric care and provision of safe abortion services at all health institutions including primary health centers. For implementing these strategies, the following services are being strengthened:

- \* Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health center/hospital.
- \* Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population upto 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery, post-natal checks and immunization to children.
- \* Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health Services.
- \* Making 50% Primary Health Centres functional for providing 24-hours delivery services.
- \* Establishing referral linkages between village, PHC, CHC and FRU.
- \* Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

For the purpose of providing skilled attendance at all births, it is proposed to train the Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives (ANMs), Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) and Staff Nurses in the rural sub-centres in the skills required for making them skilled birth attendants. Necessary policy decisions in this regard have already been taken and guidelines issued to the State Governments in this regard. The States under NRHM are being advised to initiate these training programmes under the existing Reproductive & Child Health Programme for which funding is being provided by the Government of India.

In addition, a number of other national health and disease control programmes are being implemented by the Government. These Programmes lay equal stress on providing comprehensive health care to both men and women.

### Statement

#### Maternal Mortality Rate, India and Bigger States

Major State	MMR (1997)	MMR (1998)
India	408	407
Andhra Pradesh	154	150
Assam	401	409
Bihar	451	452
Gujarat	29	28
Haryana	105	103
Karnataka	195	195
Kerala	195	198
Madhya Pradesh	498	498
Maharashtra	135	135
Orissa	361	367
Punjab	196	199
Rajasthan	677	670
Tamil Nadu	76	79
Uttar Pradesh	707	707
West Bengal	264	266

(Source: RGI, SRS, 1997, 1998)

### Amritsar-Lahore Bus Service

\*120. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amritsar-Lahore bus service which was scheduled to start from November 9, 2005 has been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which a fresh date is likely to be announced;

(d) the details of the new routes announced for starting bus service to Pakistan;

(e) whether roads have been constructed for the purpose;

(f) if not, the time by which these are likely to be constructed;

(g) the criteria laid down for travellers to visit either country by the said service; and

(h) the time by which truck services are also likely to start on these routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The operationalisation of the Amritsar-Lahore bus service, scheduled for first half of November 2005, was postponed due to the October 8 earthquake. India proposed fresh dates for the trial run in November 2005 which were not accepted by Pakistan. India has accepted Pakistan's proposal for December 11 and 13, 2005, for trial runs of the bus service by India and Pakistan respectively.

(d) to (f) India has accepted Pakistan's proposal for talks on 20-21 December 2005 to finalise the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service. Earlier, Pakistan had cited infrastructural constraints in starting this service.

(g) Any person in possession of a valid ticket for the bus service and a valid passport, visa and other travel documents will be able to travel by the Amritsar-Lahore bus service and the proposed Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service.

(h) Attari-Wagah is already a notified Land Customs Station and trade, though limited, takes place through it. However, there is no proposal, at present, for Indian and Pakistani trucks to cross the border at Attari-Wagah.

[Translation]

### Yoga System

\*121. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Yoga system has been found to be useful for the total health of human beings;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy at the national level so that common man could be benefited from this ancient and tested system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Yoga has been found to be useful for complete health of human beings. A number of scientific research works carried out across the globe have supported this premise. The Department of AYUSH and its Research Councils & National Institutes support and fund Research projects with a view to scientifically validate therapeutic effects and efficacy of Yoga and other Indian Systems of Medicine.

The Government is committed to promote and propagate Yoga in the country. A separate Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is looking after the development of Yoga at the national level. Three autonomous institutions namely Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, New Delhi, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi and National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, have been established and are funded by the Department of AYUSH to look after education, research, training and propagational aspects of Yoga. Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, New Delhi, looks after research and validation besides implementing schemes for propagation of Yoga at the National level. Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, conducts education, awareness and research programmes, besides publicizing benefits of Yoga through health melas etc. National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, is also actively involved in promoting Yoga and Naturopathy.

The Government has enacted a separate National Policy for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy including Yoga in 2002 with the objective of promoting good health and to expand the outreach of health care to the common man and ensure affordable ISM&H services, besides integrating ISM&H including Yoga in the national health care delivery system (details of policy are given in the enclosed statement. Under the Hospital & Dispensary scheme of the Department, State Government, District

Hospitals and other institutions are funded to set up specialized therapy centers, OPD wings and IPD wings of these systems including Yoga. Extra Mural Research programmes are also funded by the Department as well as CCRYN to establish efficacy of Yoga and other Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in collaboration with eminent educational research and healthcare institutions/organizations.

### **Statement**

#### **Brief Note on National Health Policy 1983.**

National Health Policy, 1983 outlines that although vast infrastructure of the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy is available in the Country and yet these systems are not fully utilized for addressing health care of our people. The Policy therefore emphasize the need for a meaningful phased integration of Indian System of Medicines with the modern medicine. The basic objectives of the Policy are:

1. To promote good health and expand the outreach of health care to people through ISM&H.
2. To ensure affordable ISM&H services & drugs which are safe and efficacious.
3. Integrate ISM&H in health care delivery system and National Programmes and ensure optimal use of the vast infrastructure of hospitals, dispensaries and physicians.
4. Re-orient and prioritize research in ISM&H to gradually validate therapy and drugs to address in particular the chronic and new life style related emerging diseases.
5. Create awareness about the strengths of these systems in India and abroad and sensitize other stakeholders and providers of health.
6. To provide full opportunity for the growth and development of these systems and utilization of the potentiality strength and revival of their glory.

A summary of strategies to achieve the above stated objectives through policy interventions and support operational measures and monitoring are delineated as under:

#### **1. Education:**

- a) Legislative measures would be taken to regulate starting of a new college, increase in

intake and introduction of new course of study. The course curricula would be reviewed and revised to weed out unnecessary teaching materials.

- b) States would be encouraged to introduce separate examinations for entry to Undergraduate Courses of the ISM&H and Post Graduate Institutions would be encourages to start a unified admission test.
- c) Re-orientation training of physicians and teachers would be made compulsory for the renewal of their registration with the registering councils.
- d) Central Govt. would setup an accreditation system

#### **2. Research:**

- a) The research areas would be prioritised keeping in view the strengths of the systems and contemporary relevance giving due emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects.
- b) Other important areas of research would include:
  - i) Research on fundamental principles of ISM&H.
  - ii) Identification and evaluation of promising and widely accepted practices and skills of traditional healers in rural and tribal areas.
  - iii) Revival of ancient literature survey, collection, transcription/translation, editing and publication of classical literature and text books on ISM.

#### **3. Others areas:**

Integration of ISM&H and National Health Care Programmes and Delivery system, Revitalisation of local Health Traditions, Home Remedy Kits, development of special areas, Medical Tourism etc.

*[Translation]*

#### **Demolition of Houses**

1081. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any likelihood to demolish houses to extend Delhi Metro Rail line till the Anand Vihar or New Ashok Nagar; and

(b) if so, the details of places where these displaced families will be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Final location survey for the corridor between Yamuna bank and New Ashok Nagar is in progress and the details of the properties required to be demolished will be known only after completion of this survey and finalisation of station plans. As regards the places where these displaced families will be rehabilitated, the action will be taken by Delhi Government on finalisation of list of affected persons.

#### Forfeiture of Property of Indians by Foreign Governments

1082. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which came to the notice of Union Government in which the property of the Indian people residing abroad has been forfeited by the foreign Governments on account of their support to the persons associated with Indian freedom movement;

(b) whether such cases are still pending with foreign Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned Governments by the Indian Embassies;

(e) if so, the country-wise present position thereof;

(f) whether property worth crores belonging to an Indian has been confiscated by the Chinese Government as reported in the Hindi weekly Sahara Samay dated April 16, 2005;

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

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (h) The requisite information is being collected from Indian Missions and Posts abroad and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

#### Replacement of Coolant Channels

1083. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to replace the coolant channels at Narora and other Nuclear Power Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done alongwith life expectancy of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) In the earlier Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (upto KAPS-1 which started operations in the year 1993), the coolant channel assemblies were made of zircalloy-2, which had a life of about 8.5 Effective Full Power Years (EFPY). These are required to be replaced after the end of their service life. The En masse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR) is currently underway at Narora Atomic Power Station-1. Narora Atomic Power Station-2 and Kakrapar Atomic Power Station-1 are the other reactors where EMCCR is to be taken up. Reactors beyond KAPS-1 use coolant channels of superior material which has much longer life.

(b) The sanctioned cost for EMCCR of NAPS-1&2 is Rs. 247 crore.

(c) The EMCCR and safety upgrades need about two years for each reactor. NAPS-2 & KAPS-1 EMCCR is planned for the year 2006 & 2007. After the en-masse coolant channel replacement, the reactor will function for another 25-30 years.

[Translation]

#### Easing Visa Norms for Pak Nationals

1084. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken up the issue of simplifying of visa procedure for small scale industry owners of Pakistan to promote trade with the latter; and



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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration with the Government.

[English]

#### **Coal Mining by State Public Sector Undertakings**

1085. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to allow State Public Sector Undertakings to take up coal mining outside their State boundaries and sale in the open market anywhere;

(b) if so, whether the States having no substantial coal reserves can actually set up their own coal mining entities and start operations in coal rich States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance the Union Government is likely to provide to the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 together with the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, which govern coal and lignite mining, do not prohibit coal mining by the State Public Sector Undertakings of a State in the territory of another State.

(d) The Central Government have identified and circulated a list of 28 blocks to the concerned Central Ministries and all the State Governments for eliciting the interest of their undertakings/companies to take up mining of coal.

#### **Mobile Connection in Rural Areas**

1086. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide

mobile connections to all the applicants in the country, particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Licence Agreement for provision of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) as well as Unified Access Services (UAS), inter-alia, provides that:-

"In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the DHQs will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the DHQ. Coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that atleast 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. The DHQs shall be taken as on the effective date of licence. The choice of DHQs/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas."

The state owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned extensive coverage of National Highways and Railway routes due to which many rural and remote areas are benefited with incidental coverage of mobile services. Presently, more than 59,500 villages are benefited by the mobile service provided by BSNL.

[Translation]

#### **Opening of Ayurveda College**

1087. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government (Kendriya Ayurveda Sansthan) for opening Ayurveda College in tribal district of Gadchiroli of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the present status thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (d) A request was received on 3.12.2004 from Ayurved Utkarsh Mandal, Vidarbha Pradesh, Nagpur regarding establishment of a new College in the name and style of Gadchiroli Ayurveda College and Hospital. The prescribed application form, minimum standards norms and concerned Regulations of the Central Council of Indian Medicine for opening a new Ayurveda College was sent to the applicant on 31.12.2004 to apply as per prescribed Schedule along with all requisite information and documents, but the Department have not received the application so far.

[English]

#### Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1088. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Name of circle	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	/BE (Rs. in crores)	Utilized	BE (Rs. in crores)	Utilized	BE (Rs. in crores)	Utilized
West Bengal	109.98	112.21	156.18	124.65	178.78	137
Sikkim	4.04	3.84	4.43	3.84	4.43	4.07
NER	123.06	124.36	70.21	68.96	57.79	67.51
Delhi		190.73*		138.43*		42.69*

\* Disbursed and utilized. No separate budget in MTNL is earmarked for new exchanges. However, funds are earmarked for overall switching capacity.

(c) BSNL has planned to install/commission a total of 38 new electronic telephone exchanges during Tenth Five Year Plan in West Bengal, Sikkim and NER. In MTNL Delhi, exchanges are being set up as per demand in the area.

#### Administrative Reforms

1089. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER

(a) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up in West Bengal, Delhi, Sikkim and NER during the last three years;

(b) the funds earmarked, disbursed and utilized so far for the said purpose during this period; and

(c) the plan formulated for setting up of more electronic telephone exchanges in these States during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up in West Bengal, Delhi, Sikkim and NER during the last three years are as under:

Name of circle	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
West Bengal	95	18	20
Sikkim	02	0	0
NER	98	46	20
Delhi	37	28	14

(b) The funds earmarked, disbursed and utilized so far for the said purpose during this period are as under:

be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 426 on March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Core Group of Administrative Reforms have to wait till the recommendations of Administrative Reform Commission become available;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the submission of the report by ARC; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations of ARC are likely to become available?

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 PACHOURI):

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The second ARC which was constituted on 31.8.2005, is required to submit its Report(s) within one year of its constitution.

[Translation]

#### Medical Charges

1090. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the treatment/medical charges of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the P.G.I. Chandigarh are equal;

(b) If not, the difference between the charges;

(c) the date on which the medical charges of both the Institutes was last revised;

(d) whether high charges are within the reach of the poor people and common people of the society; and

(e) If not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The rates charged by the two Institutions, viz., All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the PGIMER, Chandigarh are marginally different in some cases, as the charges depend on the type of procedure, investigations, package rates, inclusion or exclusion of cost of consumables etc.

These rates are also being reviewed and revised from time to time. The rates of hospital charges in AIIMS were revised on 23.11.2005 and the rates of hospital charges in certain Departments in PGIMER, Chandigarh were last revised on 6.10.2005. While revising the charges, reasonableness and the cost of materials etc. are kept in mind. Poor and indigent patients are, however, exempt from payment of the hospital charges. Besides, the poor patients are also assisted from the National Illness

Assistance Fund (Arogya Nidhi) kept at the disposal of respective Institutions for providing the treatment for life threatening diseases.

[English]

#### Demarcation of Indo-Bangladesh Border

1091. SHRI M.K. SUBB : A Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the progress made so far in the demarcation of the Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam, Mizoram and North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): India and Bangladesh share a common border of 4096.7 kms running through 5 states viz. West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Demarcation of the border has been completed except in the case of 6.1 kms. where it remains undemarcated. These are: Dalkhata-56 (1.5 km in West Bengal), Belonia (1.6 km in Tripura) and Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam).

[Translation]

#### Medicated Mosquito Nets

1092. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has signed a contract with a private company for the procurement of medicated mosquito nets under "Malaria Control Project";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount paid by the Government to the private company for the purpose; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government have not signed a contract with a private company for the procurement of medicated mosquito nets under Malaria Control Project. However, conventional polyester bednets as per Bureau of Indian Standard specifications and Central Insecticides Board approved insecticide for impregnation of these

bednets are procured separately under the World Bank supported Enhanced Malaria Control Project through the approved Procurement Agency.

[English]

**Availing of Facilities by Senior Citizens  
in CGHS Dispensaries**

1093. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic C.G.H.S Dispensaries is not sufficient to meet the demand of the patients;

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

(c) whether patients face a lot of difficulties on account of this;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to allow at least senior citizens to avail the facilities in any CGHS Dispensary; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There are 32 Ayurvedic, 36 Homeopathic and 10 Unani dispensaries/units functioning under CGHS. These dispensaries/units have been established in such a way that the same can be approached by the CGHS beneficiaries without any problem. The existing dispensaries/units are by and large considered to be adequate to meet the day to day requirement of the patients.

The senior citizens are allowed to avail CGHS medical facilities from any CGHS dispensary except VIPs dispensaries and heavily loaded dispensaries.

[Translation]

**Uranium Reserves**

1094. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether good quality uranium reserves have been found in the district of Jajgir and Chamba in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir. Few low order uranium anomalies are found in the district of Jajgir and Chamba in Chhattisgarh.

(b) The potential of these areas for establishing uranium reserves will be known only after a lead time period of 8-10 years on completion of Exploration activities.

(c) The Exploration work is in progress for establishing the Uranium potential.

[English]

**Master Plan 2021**

1095. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the Master Plan 2021;

(b) whether Plan envisages removal of illegal constructions and encroachments and initiation of action against officers who do not discharge their duties in upholding the Master Plan;

(c) the objectives behind formulating mixed land use policy by the DDA; and

(d) the reasons for showing fully developed areas as green belt by the DDA in the new Master Plan 2021?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The main features of the Draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2021 are:

(i) Provision of adequate housing particularly for the weaker sections of the society;

(ii) Emphasis on re-development of existing urban area;

(iii) Intensification of development along major transport corridors in the identified influence zone;

(iv) Provision to address the problem of small enterprises particularly in unorganized informal sector;

(v) Upgradation of old and dilapidated area of city and to deal with the issue of slum;

- (vi) Conservation of environment and prevention of heritage blending with the modern development;
- (vii) Vision to develop Delhi as a sports Capital;
- (viii) Provision of adequate infrastructure service-  
Perspective Plans for infrastructure services prepared by the concerned agencies annexed with the Master Plan.

(b) The Master Plan prescribes policies, standards and Development Control Norms for different uses/use premises. Any deviations from the prescribed provision are termed as illegal construction and it is to be dealt by the concerned local bodies as per the provision under the provision of respective acts.

(c) DDA has reported that the objective of formulating the mixed land use policy is to meet the present socio-economic needs of the society in a balanced manner while reducing transportation needs etc. A proper regulatory mechanism is however, a pre-requisite to avoid adverse effects such as congestion, environmental impact and in-convenience to the people.

(d) DDA has reported that the draft Plan stipulates that land upto the depth of one peripheral revenue village boundary along the border of National Capital Territory of Delhi wherever available would be maintained as green belt.

### Expansion of Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

1096. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand capacity of the existing telephone exchanges by providing modern communication facility in West Bengal during the current year and in the coming years;

(b) If so, the details thereof, district-wise and the funds likely to be provided by the Government for the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to expand capacity of the existing telephone exchanges by providing land lines/Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections as under:-

Year	Capacity Planned (Fixed + WLL)
2005-06	355800
2006-07	350200
2007-08	375100

(b) District wise details and provision of funds are as under:-

Sl No.	Name of District	Name of Exchange	Capacity	Funds Provision (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1	24-Pargna (S)	Southgaria	1000	157.82 crores
2.	24-Pargna(N)	Dharampur	1000	
3.		Kalupur	1000	
4.		Palkpara	1000	
5.	Burdwan	Mahata	248	
6.	Bankura	Bishunupur (1)	1000	
7.	Birbhum	Nichupatti	1000	
8.		Nischintapur	1000	
9.	Coochbehar	Baburhat	1000	

1	2	3	4	5
10.		Takdaha	500	
11.	Malda	Tulshihata	248	
12.	Midnapur(E)	Egra	500	
13.		Tamluk South	1000	
14.		Darua	500	
15.	Midnapur (W)	Golbazar	1000	
16.		Judge's Court	1000	
17.	Murshidabad	Bhakuri	750	
18.		Uttarpara	500	
19.		Jilaparishad	750	
20.	Purlia	Purlia M/W	2500	
21.		Amdaha	1000	
22.		Arsha	248	
23.		Lakhanpur	248	

(c) BSNL has started equipment procurement process for expanding capacity of the existing telephone exchanges.

**Regional Research Institute  
of Unani**

1097. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work at Regional Research Institute of Unani, Chennai has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the institute will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The construction work of Regional Research Institute of Unani at Chennai was started by the CPWD in March 2000 and completed in November, 2003, Since then the Institute is carrying out research work, OPD & IPD etc. from the new building.

**Release of Funds for Proposed Institution  
at Rishikesh**

1098. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question no. 898 dated march 9, 2005 and Unstarred Question No. 3398 dated August 17, 2005 and state:

(a) whether approval of CCEA has since been obtained;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any funds has been released for the proposed institution at Rishikesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the same was released; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The PMSSY proposal was sent for

clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). However, it was decided to place it before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) in the first instance. Accordingly, the proposal was placed before COS, who has recently cleared it. The recommendations made by the COS are being examined for placing the proposal before CCEA. Pending approval of Competent Authority, funds have been released only for start up activities like construction of boundary wall at the sites. The construction of boundary wall at the site of AIIMS, Rishikesh has been completed.

#### National Mineral Policy

1099. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has reviewed the working of the National Mineral Policy;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission has suggested any amendment in the existing policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d): Yes Sir, the Planning Commission has constituted a High Level Committee to review the National Mineral Policy, a notification to this effect was issued on 14.9.2005. The draft mineral policy will be ready by 31st January, 2006.

#### National Conference of Youth Affairs and Sports

1100. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had organised National Conference of Youth Affairs and Sports in February, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details of the deliberations and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to shift 'sports' from the 'Concurrent List' to 'Union List'; and
- (d) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major issues discussed in the Conference included transferring 'Sports' to the Concurrent List of the Constitution; transfer of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sports Infrastructure, formulation of State Youth & Sports Policies; implementation issues in respect of new schemes, strengthening the monitoring and delivery mechanism of various programmes of the Ministry etc. The recommendations of the National Conference on the key issues are as follows:

- 1) The annual budgetary allocation for the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports needs to be substantially enhanced.
- 2) Need to review the decision to transfer Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Sports Infrastructure was stressed. The committed liabilities of Rs.160 crore should be provided for during the next two to three years.
- 3) Further consultation was required in the respective States on the issue of bringing the subject of 'Sports' in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Individual State Governments shall take a view on the subject and send written communication in this regard.
- 4) Autonomous premier organizations like Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) should be made more effective, responsible and accountable and their field formations should have closer interaction with State agencies. The financial as well as administrative structure of these organizations may also be strengthened & expanded further.
- 5) Need for formulation and adoption of State Youth and Sports policies by all the States and Union Territories.
- 6) Plan of Action for Celebration of 2005 as International Year of Physical Education and Sports be implemented.
- 7) Need for greater stress on physical education and educational institutions.
- 8) Revision of the Scheme of State Sports Academy so

as to utilize the existing sports infrastructure for broad basing sports

- 9) Need for providing mass participation in physical fitness by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions, NYKS, etc.
- 10) Early formulation of Scheme for setting up National and State Youth Centres as envisaged under the X Five Year Plan.
- 11) The State Ministers Conference should be made an annual feature.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) This issue was discussed in the State Ministers' Conference on 16th February, 2005. Accordingly, this Ministry has received response from 11 State Governments out of which 5 States have supported the move.

#### Laying of Under Sea Cable

1101. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to have Chennai-Sri Lanka Under Sea cable in partnership with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) propose to lay undersea cable in partnership with Sri Lanka Telecom. Approximately 320 Kms. long cable will be laid between Tuticorin (India) and Mount Lavana (Sri Lanka).

(c) BSNL has reported that this project is likely to be operational by June, 2006.

#### Millennium Development Goals

1102. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any guidelines to meet the Millennium Development Goals

which are likely to be achieved by many countries of the world by 2015;

(b) if so, the details of such goals expected to be achieved by the year 2015 and thereafter; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard alongwith the estimates of expenditure to achieve these goals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not drawn any specific guidelines to meet the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Millennium Development Goals are quite similar to the objectives and targets laid in different Five Year Plans. In fact, some of the targets as specified in the Tenth Five Year Plan document relating to poverty alleviation, infant mortality, maternal mortality, school enrolment, etc. are more ambitious than the ones specified in the Millennium Development Goals. The various steps proposed to be taken to achieve these targets have been specified in the Tenth Five Year Plan as well as in the Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Five Year Plan. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving governance and enhancing the efficiency of delivery systems, etc. The details are available in the Tenth Five Year Plan document as well as in the Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Five Year Plan, which have been placed in the Parliament Library. No estimates are available on the expenditure that will be required to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

#### Recommendations of Expert Committee for Coal Industry

1103. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee of the Planning Commission has made certain recommendations regarding the coal industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the industry as a result of these recommendations; and

(d) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Expert Committee of Planning Commission on Integrated Energy Policy is yet to submit its report.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Setting up of Funds for Victims of Natural Calamities

1104. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal under consideration in the context of the damage to life and property in the last few months due to natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to set aside a dedicated fund for the purpose;

(d) whether during the last 15 years, there has been a 30-35% increase in urban population and most of the cities suffer from water shortage, poor infrastructure facilities etc.;

(e) if so, whether any concrete measures are being considered by the Government; and

(f) if so, the details of the action plan being prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Creation of NCR Development Authority

1105. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to create National Capital Region (NCR) Development Authority to develop the said region;

(b) if so, the details regarding its status, allocation of funds to it and its decision making powers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to create National Capital Region (NCR) Development Authority. However, the National Capital Region Planning Board was set up in 1985 under the National Capital Region Planning Board Act. The Board prepares Regional Plan for harmonized development of the region and also provides loan assistance to State Governments and implementing agencies for taking up infrastructure projects in the NCR.

#### Welfare of Mother and Child Health

1106. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any action plan under implementation for the welfare of mother and child health in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent for the welfare of mother and child during each of the last three years;

(d) the total amount received by each State during the above period from the Union Government and abroad for the purpose; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on each State including West Bengal during the next three years for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which includes the second Phase of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. Maternal Health and Child Health Programmes are integral part of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme aimed at bringing down the maternal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and improving health status of women and children. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-II has been launched with effect from 01.04.2005 for a period of five years, which is under implementation in all States/ Union territories of the country.

The programme is envisaged as an umbrella programme by integrating all the related and interlinked stand alone schemes into a single composite programme. A number of interventions are being implemented. These are:

- \* Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health center/hospital.
  - \* Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery, post-natal checks and immunization to children.
  - \* Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers (CHC) as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health Services.
  - \* Making 50% Primary Health Centers (PHC) functional for providing 24 hours delivery services.
  - \* Placing skilled attendants at birth in PHCs/CHCs and FRUs.
  - \* Implementation of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) and essential new born care.
  - \* Control of deaths in children due to diarrhoeal disease and the acute Respiratory Infections.
  - \* Establishing referral linkages between village, PHC, CHC and FRU.
  - \* Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.
  - \* Provision of Essential drugs and equipment.
- (c) and (d) The funds released and the expenditure incurred under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme Phase I supported by Development partners during the last three years State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.
- (e) The amount likely to be spent by each State including West Bengal during 2005-06 under Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II is given in the enclosed Statement-II subject to fulfilment of applicable norms and guidelines of the RCH-II Programme.

**Statement-I**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		Total	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1590.69	2043.85	3344.30	3010.95	3133.38	2444.89	8068.37	7499.69
2	Arunachal Pradesh	269.20	160.03	145.50	203.24	319.46	350.37	734.16	713.65
3	Assam	745.28	1275.98	1462.12	621.30	2810.76	1448.80	5018.15	3346.08
4	Bihar	3834.74	1776.14	3731.31	2705.27	3895.36	370.51	11461.40	4851.92
5	Jharkhand	781.05	356.87	1003.11	31.78	1341.65	2285.24	3125.81	2673.89
6	Goa	15.47	51.03	16.67	13.55	16.37	1.12	48.51	65.70
7	Gujarat	1399.12	1617.02	1742.49	2452.34	8718.02	3098.38	11859.64	7167.74
8	Haryana	1007.86	1196.88	2177.80	1379.46	1976.01	2363.34	5161.68	4939.68
9	Himachal Pradesh	411.41	365.65	665.90	222.99	497.32	124.73	1574.63	713.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	Jammu & Kashmir	426.53	215.15	2006.20	354.92	264.31	371.41	897.04	941.49
11	Karnataka	2883.78	1981.92	827.02	1440.54	1057.00	1862.95	4767.80	5285.42
12	Kerala	711.76	1251.04	891.95	884.63	638.32	678.81	2242.03	2814.48
13	Madhya Pradesh	1582.10	1670.20	2517.87	2701.81	4059.46	782.97	8159.44	5154.99
14	Chhattisgarh	1190.93	379.86	1305.46	1056.58	1137.00	1439.30	3633.39	2875.74
15	Maharashtra	1528.13	2318.96	3472.98	1756.31	3486.68	1685.74	8487.79	5761.00
16	Manipur	402.44	573.13	434.24	288.96	258.46	2.09	1095.13	864.19
17	Meghalaya	70.80	118.02	78.79	53.18	111.33	205.23	260.92	376.43
18	Mizoram	733.36	415.55	335.18	319.01	502.19	324.21	1570.72	1058.77
19	Nagaland	173.62	237.81	253.43	230.96	246.51	66.82	673.56	535.59
20	Orissa	690.55	1449.09	954.70	563.24	1854.70	904.66	3499.95	2916.99
21	Punjab	275.45	628.29	376.52	498.65	559.08	236.01	1211.04	1362.95
22	Rajasthan	1610.99	1919.09	4119.19	3012.99	2797.98	2935.16	8528.16	7867.24
23	Sikkim	91.10	71.99	15.10	111.99	328.35	167.82	434.56	351.81
24	Tamil Nadu	1688.91	1953.92	1220.86	937.01	1447.41	371.19	4357.19	3262.11
25	Tripura	154.22	88.59	78.61	92.98	119.38	6.10	352.21	187.67
26	Uttar Pradesh	9569.69	7777.81	12525.56	10645.49	14577.83	10595.83	36673.08	29019.14
27	Uttaranchal	424.61	332.38	703.83	651.67	410.38	535.03	1538.82	1519.08
28	West Bengal	1640.14	1879.33	3278.19	2620.25	3356.74	2247.11	8275.08	6746.69
29	A&N Islands	13.53	28.27	26.43	13.70	25.76	47.66	65.72	89.63
30	Chandigarh	17.86	27.81	19.11	22.17	19.58	32.55	56.55	82.54
31	D&N Haveli	6.18	9.30	9.66	16.76	5.30	29.50	21.13	55.57
32	Daman & Diu	25.41	11.59	7.31	6.31	13.48	42.35	46.20	60.26
33	Delhi	354.06	449.00	770.61	520.70	1044.45	182.37	2169.12	1152.07
34	Lakshadweep	14.16	9.44	10.24	7.85	7.31	43.28	31.72	60.57
35	Pondicherry	25.85	40.95	25.78	21.14	82.13	35.70	133.76	97.79
Total		36360.98	34681.98	48754.01	39470.69	61119.46	38319.24	146234.45	112471.91

Figures provisional

**Statement-II**

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Amount likely to be spent by the State/UTs under RCH-II during 2005-06 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.15
2.	Goa	1.50
3.	Gujarat	60.50
4.	Haryana	25.00
5.	Himáchal Pradesh	7.50
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	12.00
7.	Karnataka	63.00
8.	Kerala	38.00
9.	Maharashtra	115.50
10.	Punjab	29.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	74.00
12.	West Bengal	95.50
13.	A&N Islands	0.50
14.	Chandigarh	1.00
15.	D&N Haveli	0.50
16.	Daman & Diu	0.50
17.	Delhi	16.50
18.	Lakshdweep	0.50
19.	Pondicherry	1.00
20.	Bihar	128.50
21.	Jharkhand	42.00
22.	Madhya Pradesh	93.50
23.	Chhattisgarh	32.50
24.	Orissa	57.00

1	2	3
25.	Rajasthan	87.50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	257.50
27.	Uttaranchal	13.00
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.50
29.	Assam	116.05
30.	Manipur	11.93
31.	Meghalaya	9.00
32.	Mizoram	13.57
33.	Nagaland	10.36
34.	Sikkim	1.82
35.	Tripura	9.67

[Translation]

**Landline/Mobile Service of BSNL**

1107. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in which the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's telephone/mobile service has covered every village;

(b) the details of the total number of telephone/mobile connections in comparison to the ratio of their population, State-wise;

(c) the names of the States which are lagging behind in telephone/mobile service facility extended by the BSNL and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Private Companies have access in most of the areas with regard to providing mobile service as compared to the BSNL;

(e) if so, the names of the Private Companies alongwith the States in which these have provided more service than the BSNL;

(f) the reasons for which the BSNL is lagging behind in that respect; and

(g) the action plan being implemented by the Government to bring at a par telephone and mobile facility in all the States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) In respect of basic telephone service, all the accessible, undisputed and undisturbed villages inhabited with population more than 100 as per census, 1991 in the States of Andaman and Nicobar, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West) and West Bengal have been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

BSNL has already covered 589 out of 600 District Headquarters in the country and 9345 cities/towns in India besides Tehsil Headquarters, National Highways, Important Pilgrimage Centers, Tourist Places etc. with GSM Mobile Service. The coverage of the national highways will provide incidental limited coverage to a number of rural areas falling en-route.

The Circle-wise details of subscribers provided by BSNL is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) to (g) As per licence agreement of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services Licence (UASL), in metros, 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date. In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The Licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

Private operators started their mobile services from September 1995 onwards, whereas the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely BSNL and MTNL started their mobile service from the year 2001 onwards.

The Circle-wise details of mobile connections provided by PSUs and private operators as on 30-09-2005 is given in enclosed Statement-II.

BSNL presently has a mobile subscriber base of around 10 million and has plans to expand its network by additional 15 million lines during the current financial year.

**Statement-I**

S.No.	Name of Circles	DELS (Fixed+ WLL+CMTS)	Population	Teledensity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andman & Nicobar	55384	379246	14.60
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4028494	80612264	5.00
3.	Assam	743331	28356688	2.62
4.	Bihar	1379709	88224802	1.56
5.	Chhattisgarh	438892	22137377	1.98
6.	Gujarat	3492211	54263622	6.44
7.	Haryana	1600958	22442924	7.13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	668856	6469254	10.34
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	636870	10719466	5.94

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jharkhand	715454	28645191	2.50
11.	Karnataka	3610409	56135505	6.43
12.	Kerala	4483690	33956838	13.20
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1745754	64280194	2.72
14.	Maharashtra	5108459	86721138	5.89
15.	North East-I	277183	6800365	4.08
16.	North East-II	245709	5821119	4.22
17.	Orissa	1200078	39074660	3.07
18.	Punjab	2402865	26815077	8.96
19.	Rajasthan	2530197	60115860	4.21
20.	Tamilnadu	3903154	60314839	6.47
21.	Uttaranchal	597612	9026527	6.62
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2911615	121788349	2.39
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1767878	54975570	3.22
24.	West Bengal	1674546	71902043	2.33
25.	Kolkata	1668289	14069065	11.86
26.	Chennai	1294324	6839037	18.93
Total		49181921	1060887020	4.64

**Statement-II***Circle wise subscribers base on mobile companies for the quarter ending Sept. 2005*

Circle	Operator		Subscribers Base	
	GSM	CDMA		
1	2	3	4	
Delhi	Bharti		1767759	
	Hutch		1611665	
	MTNL		605610	
	Idea		728205	
		MTNL		103916
		Reliance Infocomm		1301849

1	2	3	4
		Tata Teleservices	371896
			6490900
Mumbai	BPL		1305958
	Hutch		1625465
	MTNL		677198
	Bharti		901421
		MTNL	50385
		Reliance Infocomm	1070237
		Tata Teleservices	190550
			5821214
Chennai	Aircel Cellular		626563
	Bharti		521767
	BSNL		379047
	Hutchison		300430
		BSNL	9056
		Reliance Infocomm	449369
		Tata Teleservices	64532
			2350764
Kolkata	Bharti		507214
	Hutchison East		728114
	BSNL		325891
	Reliable Internet		4626
		BSNL	20957
		Reliance Infocomm	572949
		Tata Teleservices	82921
			2242672
MH	BPL		639512
	Idea		1437057
	BSNL		1056053
	Bharti		859745

1	2	3	4
		BSNL	40375
		Reliance Infocomm	872686
		Tata Teleservices	184943
			5090371
GUJ	Fascel (Hutch)		1430909
	Idea		760352
	BSNL		813250
	Bharti		591169
		BSNL	16977
		Reliance Infocomm	676896
		Tata Teleservices	146753
			4436306
AP	Idea		777866
	Bharti		1249917
	BSNL		842677
	Hutchison		562976
		BSNL	45912
		Reliance Infocomm	1065231
		Tata Teleservices	238723
			4783302
KTK	Bharti		1556895
	Spice		311832
	BSNL		640599
	Hutch		753318
		BSNL	17653
		Reliance Infocomm	758538
		Tata Teleservices	167536
			4406371
TN	BPL		444644
	Aircel		1463581



1	2	3	4
	BSNL		917046
	Bharti		603448
		BSNL	10681
		Reliance Infocomm	586415
		Tata Teleservices	64984
			4090799
Kerala	Escotel (Idea)		690936
	BPL		415344
	BSNL		833060
	Bharti		438169
		BSNL	47878
		Reliance Infocomm	531904
		Tata Teleservices	44947
			3002238
Punjab	Spice		1178343
	Bharti		1418593
	BSNL		429403
	Hutchison		353377
		BSNL	13358
		Reliance Infocomm	508513
		HFCL Infocom	60292
		Tata Teleservices	97393
			4059272
Haryana	Escotel (Idea)		244612
	Aircel Digilink (Hutch)		264267
	BSNL		438549
	Bharti		337891
		BSNL	11901
		Reliance Infocomm	217627
		Tata Teleservices	64193
			1579040

1	2	3	4	
UP-W	Escotel (Idea)		747965	
	Bharti		504120	
	BSNL		752021	
	Hutch South		320686	
		BSNL	16000	
		Reliance Infocomm	453668	
		Tata Teleservices	74846	
			2869306	
	UP-E	Aircel Digilink (Hutch)		1049528
		BSNL		1183101
Bharti			409968	
		BSNL	19794	
		Reliance Infocomm	677561	
		Tata Teleservices	73187	
			3413139	
Raj	Aircel Digilink (Hutch)		448707	
	Hexacom (Bharti)		704062	
	BSNL		629787	
		BSNL	71298	
		Reliance Infocomm	497211	
		Shyam Telelink	28182	
		Tata Teleservices	63873	
			2443120	
MP	Idea		558969	
	Reliance		429424	
	BSNL		368973	
	Bharti		311082	
		BSNL	134536	
		Reliance Infocomm	509464	
		Tata Teleservices	39487	
		2351935		

1	2	3	4	
<b>WB &amp; A&amp;N</b>	<b>Reliance</b>		<b>216778</b>	
	<b>BSNL</b>		<b>388599</b>	
	<b>Bharti</b>		<b>220363</b>	
	<b>Hutch South</b>		<b>259535</b>	
		<b>BSNL</b>	<b>1998</b>	
		<b>Reliance Infocomm</b>	<b>179137</b>	
		<b>Tata Teleservices</b>	<b>26683</b>	
			<b>1293091</b>	
	<b>HP</b>	<b>Bhatti</b>		<b>261328</b>
		<b>Reliance</b>		<b>58730</b>
<b>BSNL</b>			<b>169378</b>	
		<b>BSNL</b>	<b>27</b>	
		<b>Reliance Infocomm</b>	<b>7910</b>	
		<b>Tata Teleservices</b>	<b>8872</b>	
			<b>506245</b>	
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>Reliance</b>		<b>479852</b>	
	<b>BSNL</b>		<b>511819</b>	
	<b>Bharti</b>		<b>414582</b>	
		<b>BSNL</b>	<b>7513</b>	
		<b>Reliance Infocomm</b>	<b>324007</b>	
		<b>Tata Teleservices</b>	<b>30738</b>	
			<b>1768511</b>	
<b>Orissa</b>	<b>Reliance</b>		<b>172190</b>	
	<b>BSNL</b>		<b>354222</b>	
	<b>Bharti</b>		<b>224256</b>	
		<b>BSNL</b>	<b>1087</b>	
		<b>Reliance Infocomm</b>	<b>153306</b>	
		<b>Tata Teleservices</b>	<b>18808</b>	
		<b>923869</b>		

1	2	3	4
Assam	Reliance		172057
	BSNL		195941
	Bharti		69777
	Dishnet Wireless		212
		BSNL	
			447681
NE	Reliance		47048
	Bharti		9717
	BSNL		141734
	Dishnet Wireless		220
		BSNL	
			198795
J&K	BSNL		313013
	Bharti		184673
		BSNL	
			498631
			65067572

**High Court Judgment on  
Reservation Policy**

1108. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent judgement of the Allahabad High Court which has ruled that if a candidate from the reserved category applies for an appointment in the general category, he cannot then apply for the reserved category and vice-versa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 PACHOURI):  
(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Parallel Telephone Exchanges**

1109. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether a number of parallel Telephone Exchanges are operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officers of Telecommunication are also allegedly involved in it;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total loss of revenue being incurred due to these parallel Telephone Exchanges; and
- (f) the stringent action 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. In the past, based on sourced information or information provided by security agencies, the Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Units of Department of Telecommunication, along with security agencies have curbed many illegal grey market telephone setups in the country, as soon as they have been detected. The same is being practiced as on date as well.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Till date, no such cases where, officer of Telecommunication alleged involvement have come to the notice of the department.

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

(e) As per available data, the estimated notional loss of more than 450 crores has been caused to the country, by around 300 illegal grey market cases detected till date, since 1998.

(f) Preventive & Stringent action taken by Government:

- All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency and cases have been registered against the offenders. Further investigation in such cases is in progress.
- 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 set ups.

- A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.
- Dedicated CBI cells have been set up in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom, related frauds.
- The notional loss caused in such cases is also raised as penalty from the negligent service providers.
- Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell has been created in October 2004, in four places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, for curbing such grey market operations.
- Toll free public number 1600-110-420 have been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of such cases. Advertisement given in leading news papers and SMS's are sent by mobile operators to their customers, for creating awareness among public.

#### Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

1110. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for setting up of Nuclear Power Plants of 2000 megawatts in the State;
- (b) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to accord its approval?

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

(b) and (c) The Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy had found Bargi in Mandla district as a potential site. Subsequently another site, Bhimpur in Shivpuri district was evaluated by the Technical Committee and found suitable.

It is considered prudent to first fully utilise the potential at existing sites for setting up new projects so that available infrastructure is fully utilised without problems of land acquisition and displacement/rehabilitation of population. Accordingly no decision has been taken to set up a nuclear power plant in Madhya Pradesh.

#### Supply of Coal to Power Plants

1111. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated/proposes to formulate a scheme for increasing the supply of coal to the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of power plants facing the shortage of coal; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Annual Plan projections of Planning Commission, the demand of Power Utilities during 2005-06 is estimated to be 303.56 million tonnes. This demand is to be met by Coal companies to the extent of 279.81 Million tonnes, thereby leaving a gap of 23.75 million tonnes. In view of this gap between demand and supply of indigenous coal, power utilities have been advised by Ministry of Power to import 13.45 million tonnes of coal which has higher calorific value than domestic coal during the year 2005-06.

(c) As reported by Central Electricity Authority, there were six power stations in the country facing critical coal stocks (i.e. having stock for less than seven days' consumption) as on 20.11.2005. The state-wise details are given below:-

State	Power Plant
Uttar Pradesh	Singarauli (NTPC)
Madhya Pradesh	Vindhyachal (NTPC)
Bihar	Barauni
Jharkhand	Patratu
Orissa	Talcher STPS(NTPC) and Talcher-Old (NTPC)

(d) A Sub-group under the Ministry of Coal comprising of the officials from Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority has been monitoring coal supply vis-a-vis stockholding at power utilities on weekly basis. The sub-group has been re-allocating coal to critical plants from additional and alternative sources as and when required. Due to close monitoring of stocks at power-houses end by the Sub-group, the number of critical power stations has come down from a level of 22 in November, 2004 to only 6 in November, 2005. Also, this has led to accretion of stock by over five million tonnes during the last one year at the power houses end.

[English]

#### Growth of Indian Economy

1112. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of Indian Economy projected for the year 2005 is more than 7 per cent as per the findings of International Monetary Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assessment of the Union Government in this regard during the current year; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to accelerate reforms and develop infrastructure to achieve greater growth in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the World Economic Outlook brought out by the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy is expected to achieve a real growth rate of 7.1 per cent in the year 2005.

(c) As per the Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Five Year Plan, the real rate of growth (in terms of GDP at market prices) of the Indian economy during the year 2005-06 is expected to be 7.6 per cent.

(d) The Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Plan has suggested a number of measures to raise the growth rate of the economy in the coming years. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, viz. power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving allocative efficiency of resources, enacting policy reforms with a view to creating an investor friendly environment, improving governance and enhancing the efficiency of delivery systems, etc. The details of the measures suggested are listed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library. For the development of infrastructure, a Committee on Infrastructure has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. Similarly "Bharat Nirman" has been conceived as a plan to be implemented over a period of four years, for building infrastructure, especially in rural areas. It will have six components, namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity.

#### **Insurance Scheme for Indian Workers**

1113. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether any Insurance Scheme is proposed to be introduced for Indians who go abroad including Gulf countries for work;

(b) if so, the details thereof including purpose, amount to be paid and the amount expected to be collected during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether fee are collected during emigration clearance for benefits, evacuation of workers from their respective countries/work places during emergency situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the amount of above fund collected as on date, State-wise, category-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to cancel the fees in the light of the above Insurance Scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A compulsory Insurance Scheme known as the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojna (PBBY) has already been introduced w.e.f. 25.12.2003 which is applicable to the citizens of India who are required to obtain an emigration clearance for employment abroad. The PBBY provides for insurance cover of a minimum sum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs payable to the nominee/legal heir in the event of death or permanent disability of any Indian emigrant. It also provides for medical cover for the emigrant workers, maternity benefits and hospitalisation cover for the family of emigrant worker. The Government do not collect any amount under the PBBY, 2003. However, the Insurance Companies charge fair and reasonable premium for policy period of six months, one year and two years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The emigration fee prescribed under rule 15 of the Emigration Rules, 1983 is for processing the application made for grant of emigration clearance and has no relation with the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2003.

#### **Food Adulteration**

1114. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question no. 3174 dated December 20, 2004 regarding Food Adulteration and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and





1	2	3	4	5
S. No.			S.No. Year	Number of Samples found Adulterated
			1. 2003	282
			2. 2004	169
			3. 2004	184
			(Up to November, 2004)	
			* The commodities found adulterated include dairy products, sweets, pulses, spices, edible oils, packaged drinking water, tea, other beverages etc.	
	(e) the reasons for failure to pick adequate number of samples by Food Inspectors for proper assessment; and		(e) In view of above, does not arise.	
	(f) the action taken by the Government where the samples were found to be adulterated?		(f) The complaints for adulteration have been instituted in the designated courts for prosecution of offenders in all those cases where investing action is completed and the Consenting Authority has given his consent for the prosecution. In other cases also necessary action has been initiated as per law.	

*[Translation]*

**Indo-Canadian Co-operation In  
Nuclear Energy Sector**

1115. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada is contemplating to supply sensitive atomic material to India for its atomic installations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both countries have held any discussion in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the reasons if any, for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) During his visit to Canada from 25-27 September 2005 the former External Affairs Minister had discussions with the Canadian Foreign Minister on the issue of civilian nuclear cooperation. The two countries have agreed to develop a bilateral framework for nuclear safety collaboration. Canada also agreed to allow the supply of nuclear related dual use items to Indian civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, with appropriate

assurances consistent with the requirements of the Nuclear Suppliers Group Dual Use Guidelines. India and Canada also agreed to pursue further opportunities for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy both bilaterally and through the appropriate international fora, consistent with their international commitments. Further discussion on the issue will continue.

**Domain Names in Devnagri and Dravidian Scripts**

1116. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is formulating a plan to execute multilingual domain names in Devnagri and Dravidian scripts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be finalised;

(d) the benefits likely to be derived as a result thereof; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred for implementation of the said plan by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) A sum of Rs.3.00 lakhs has been released by National Internet Exchange of India to Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Thiruvananthapuram towards preparation of Tamil & Malayalam language tables for multilingual domain names for pilot deployment.

**CPWD Projects**

1117. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of CPWD projects not completed in time:

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of such projects; and

(c) the details of increase in cost of such projects as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The number of projects assigned to CPWD by various Government Ministries/Departments and non-government clients runs into thousands. Projection for the time that is likely to be taken for completion is, at best, a tentative estimate of the time required. Completion of projects beyond the time estimated happen due to various factors including intervention of courts, adverse law and order situations, lack of adequate coordination among different agencies etc.

(c) CPWD has not compiled the cost escalation due to time over run. However, as per current policy, no escalation or additional money is paid to the contractors by the CPWD if the completion exceeds the time period agreed to.

**Surrender of Telephone Connections**

1118. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai have surrendered their landline telephone connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of subscribers in both the cities who surrendered their landline telephone connections till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Surrender of telephone is a phenomena being experienced by all telecom operators including MTNL because of the various options available to the consumers. Some of the reasons for surrender of landline telephone analyzed by MTNL are given below:

(i) Affordability of mobile service.

(ii) Mobility and use of mobile.

(iii) Closure of office/company.

(iv) Shifting of office/company

(v) Surplus telephone connections.

- (vi) Close due to non-payment of telephone bills.  
 (vii) Economic reasons.

Number of landline connections surrendered during the years are as follows:

Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2002-2003	66851	104387
2003-2004	190592	186650
2004-2005	128795	163643
2005-2006 (upto 31-10-2005)	76968	80562

[English]

#### Indigenous Vaccines for AIDS

1119. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

- (a) whether indigenous vaccines to combat AIDS virus have been developed;  
 (b) if so, the details in this regard; and  
 (c) the time by which marketing of such vaccines are likely to be started in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A Modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based vaccine has been developed using Indian HIV-1 subtype C strain with collaborative efforts between National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, ICMR, & International AIDS vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA. Identification of consensus sequence was done at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune. This institute is also working on two other approaches multiepitope vaccine and DNA vaccine. The phase I trial of Modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based HIV vaccine is expected to begin shortly at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai.

After successful completion of phase I trial, the vaccine will enter into phase II & III clinical trial. These trials will establish the commercial availability of the vaccine.

(c) The completion of phase I, phase II and phase III trials take close to seven years. On successful completion

of phase I, II and phase III trials only the HIV vaccine can be considered for its introduction in the general public.

#### Pending Applications for Telephone Connections

1120. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of applications pending for new telephone connections in each district of Tamil Nadu particularly in Periyakulam district till date;  
 (b) the period since when these applications are pending and the reasons therefor; and  
 (c) the time by which the applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, as on 30.10.05, the total number of applications pending for new telephone connections in Tamilnadu was 138892 and only 14 in Periyakulam. Revenue district wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The state of Tamilnadu comprises of two telecom circles (i) Tamilnadu Telecom circle and (ii) Chennai Telecom District. The oldest pending application in Tamilnadu Telecom Circle was registered on 21.5.2004. In Chennai Telecom District, the oldest pending application was registered in January, 2000 in Chengalpattu SSA.

Most of the waiting list is in the farflung rural areas where landline telephone coverage is not feasible. Therefore, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) deployment is being done in a big way, BSNL has planned 150k lines WLL equipment in Tamilnadu Circle during 2005-06. All the pending wait-listing applications in Tamilnadu circle and Chennai Telecom district are likely to be cleared progressively by June 2006.

#### Statement

*List of Pending Application for new telephone connection in Tamilnadu as on 31.10.2005*

#### Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle

Sl.No.	Name of Revenue District	Pending Applications
1	2	3
1	Coimbatore	8463

1	2	3
2	Cuddalore	5584
3	Dharmapuri	3413
4	Dindigul	2808
5	Erode	6025
6	Kanyakumari	7473
7	Karur	3117
8	Krishnagiri	3295
9	Madurai	920
10	Nagapattinam	7717
11	Namakkal	4337
12	Perambalur	6297
13	Pudukottai	7053
14	Ramanathapuram	2913
15	Salem	5787
16	Sivaganga	4059
17	Thanjavur	3889
18	The Nilgiris	0
19	Theni	144
20	Thiruvavarur	4640
21	Tirunelveli	4296
22	Tiruvannamalai	4874
23	Trichy	4540
24	Tuticorin	3303
25	Vellore	8315
26	Villupuram	11126
27	Virudhunagar	3454

**Chennai Telecom District**

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	Pending Applications
1	Chennai	0
2	Chengalpattu SSA	11050
<b>Tamil Nadu State Total</b>		<b>138892</b>

**Integrated Multi Model Public Transport Network**

1121. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of NCT of Delhi has forwarded a proposal to the Planning Commission for sanction of funds for the Integrated Multi Model Public Transport network to be completed before the impending Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal including the funds estimated for the purpose;

(c) whether the proposal has been approved; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No such formal proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Performance of Indian Telephone Industries**

1122. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to shift the Indian Telephone Industries (ITIs) Corporate Office from Bangalore to Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard;

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

(e) the profit/loss of all the units of ITIs during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the efficiency and profits of ITIs units?

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

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

(c) Yes, Sir. Representations were received from:

- i) ITI Employees Union, Bangalore and ITI Officers' Association, Bangalore.
- ii) President, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.
- iii) Officer on Special Duty, National Advisory Committee.

(d) Suitable reply has been/being sent.

(e) Details of the profit/loss incurred by all the units of ITI for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Units	2004-2005	2003-2004	2002-2003
Bangalore	(49)	(287)	(149)
Naini	(103)	(136)	(85)
Rae Bareli	(43)	(171)	(109)
Srinagar	(8)	(7)	(8)
Palakkad	10	8	45
Manakapur	(112)	(118)	(92)
Network	0	2	2
Systems Units			
Regional Offices	5	3	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>(310)*</b>	<b>(709)</b>	<b>(375)</b>

1. ( ) indicates loss

2. \* The company received Government Grants for expenses incurred in the current/previous accounting periods in the revival package. This amount has been recognized as income in the Profit & Loss Accounts of the Company during the year. It has resulted in reckoning of net income of Rs.234.01 crore during the year and consequent reduction of loss by the same amount.

(f) Sallent steps taken by the Government to improve the efficiency and profits of ITIs units are:

1. Revival package of Rs.1025 crore has been sanctioned during 2004-2005.
2. Assisting the company in getting more orders alongwith advances from BSNL/MTNL
3. Coordination for induction of new technologies in the Company.
4. The Company has been advised to take steps to:-
  - i) reduce surplus manpower
  - ii) rationalize business allocation to plants
  - iii) take austerity measures
5. Performance of the company is being closely monitored.

[Translation]

#### Shifting of PSUs/Government Offices

1123. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether works relating to shifting of offices of Public sector undertakings and other Government offices outside Delhi are not progressing properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which the decision to shift the offices of P.S.Us and other Government offices outside Delhi was taken; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation approved the recommendations of the High Powered Committee to shift 24 offices of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) outside Delhi on 20-6-1988 (Statement-I). Subsequently this Ministry Identified 13 more offices of Public Sector

Undertakings for shifting outside Delhi (post 1988) on 31-3-2000. Out of these 13 PSUs (Statement-II), one PSU namely Rashtriya Pariyogana Nirman Nigam Ltd. (formerly known as National Project Construction Corporation Ltd.) also figured in the list of 24 offices. Out of the total of 36 (24+12) offices of PSUs identified for shifting, 18 have been shifted, 2 have been retained and 16 offices are yet to be shifted.

Apart from the PSUs, 11 Government offices were also identified for shifting outside Delhi. Out of these 11 offices, 2 offices have completely shifted. One office has

shifted partly and another has been abolished. Another office has been allowed to continue in Delhi. In addition, 4 more offices have shifted outside Delhi. The position relating to status of 11 offices as well as 4 offices is indicated in Statement-III.

Shifting is a continuous process and depends on a number of factors like, availability of land, construction of alternative buildings at the place where the offices are to be shifted. etc. The progress of shifting is reviewed from time to time and the concerned offices are reminded for shifting outside Delhi in accordance with Government's decision.

**Statement-I**

*List of Public Sector Undertakings identified by the High Power Committee for shifting outside Delhi: Pre - 1988.*

Sl.No.	Name of the Public Sector Undertaking	Office to be shifted	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	Headquarters	
2.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.	Headquarters	
3.	Central Warehousing Corporation	Regional office and Construction Cell	
4.	Food Corporation of India	Central Training Institute and Zonal office (North)	Shifted to Gurgaon & Noida
5.	Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation of India Ltd.	Headquarters	Shifted to Faridabad
6.	Helicopter Allied Services Ltd.	Headquarters	Building under construction. To shift by March, 2007
7.	Airlines Allied Services Ltd.	Headquarters	
8.	National Airport Authority of India	Headquarters	Retained in Delhi
9.	National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.	Regional Office	Shifted to Gurgaon
10.	National Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	Headquarters	Corporate Office shifted to Noida
11.	Fertilizer Corporation of India	Headquarters	Corporate Office shifted to Noida
12.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India	Headquarters	

1	2	3	4
13.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	Headquarters	Shifted to Noida
14.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Headquarters	Shifted to Bhubaneswar
15.	Indo-Burma Petroleum Co. Ltd. (Chemicals Division)	Headquarters	Shifted to Noida
16.	National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation	Headquarters	Shifted to Noida
17.	National Textiles Corporation (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan Ltd.)	Regional Unit	
18.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Headquarters	
19.	State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Headquarters	
20.	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	Headquarters	Shifted to Noida
21.	Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.	Headquarters	
22.	National Project Construction Corporation Ltd.	Headquarters	Shifted to Faridabad
23.	Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd.	Headquarters	
24.	Cement Corporation of India	Headquarters	Retained in Delhi

**Statement-II****PSU Offices Identified for Shifting Outside Delhi-Post-1988:**

Sl. No.	Public Sector Undertaking	Ministry/Department	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	WAPCOS Ltd.,	M/o Water Resources	Shifted to Gurgaon
2.	RPNN Ltd *(Formerly known as National Project Construction Corporation Ltd.)	-do-	Shifted to Faridabad
3.	Broadcast Engineering Consultant Inds. Ltd.	M/o Informtion & Broadcasting	Shifted to Noida
4.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd	M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas	Regional Office shifted to Noida
5.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	-do-	
6.	Numaligarh Refinery	-do-	Shifted to Guwahati

1	2	3	4
7.	India Telecom Ltd.	D/o Telecommunication	
8.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	-do-	
9.	Bharat Immunological Corporation Ltd.	D/o Bio-Technology	
10.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	M/o Steel	Shifted to Visakhapatnam
11.	PGCIL	M/o Power	Shifted to Gurgaon
12.	THDC	-do-	Shifted to Noida
13.	Bharat Electronics Ltd	M/o Defence	

\* Also at Sl.No.22 of Statement-I.

### Statement-III

#### Status of Government Offices Identified for Shifting Outside Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of Office/Department	Where to Shift	Level of Decision	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Department of Lighthouse and Lightships	NOIDA	Cabinet Committee on (CCA) Dt. 7.5.1987	Shifted
2.	National Academy of Custom, Excise and Narcotics	Faridabad	Voluntary 1990	Shifted
3.	All India Soil and Landuse Survey, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	NOIDA	Voluntary 1990	Northern Regional Centre of this office has been shifted.
4.	Research & Development Centre, Postal Department	Ghaziabad	CCA Dt. 24.4.1984	Abolished
5.	National Capital Regional Planning Board	NOIDA	CCA Dt. 12.9.1985	Allowed to continue in Delhi as per Approval of CCA obtained by Ministry of Urban Development
6.	Coast Guard Headquarters	NOIDA	CCA Dt. 15.1.1987	Yet to be shifted.
7.	National Crime Records Bureau	Any Delhi Metropolitan Town	CCA Dt 20.3.1990	Yet to be shifted
8.	Central Institute of Research & Training in Employment Service, Ministry of Labour	NOIDA	CCA Dt. 13.1.1988	A plot of land at NOIDA has been purchased by the Department and budgetary allocations since transferred to CPWD for construction. However, yet to be shifted.



1	2	3	4	5
9.	Commissioner of Payments, Department of Industrial Development	Any suitable location, like Gurgaon	CCA Dt. 20.3.1990	Yet to be shifted
10.	Directorate of Inspection, Northern Circle, Department of Supply	Ghaziabad	CCA Dt. 14.9.1988	Yet to be shifted
11.	Department of Publication, Ministry of Urban Development	Faridabad	Department of Publication informed on 3.5.1989	Yet to be shifted

*Other Offices which have shifted out of Delhi*

1.	Postal Staff College			Shifted
2.	National Vocational Training Institute for Women			Shifted
3.	CPWD Training Institute			Shifted
4.	National Labour Institute			Shifted

[English]

**Setting Up of P.G. Centre of  
Medical Science**

1124. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for opening of P.G. Centre of Medical Science at Tumkur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Centre is likely to be opened by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At Present, there is no proposal for opening of P.G. Centre of Medical Science at Tumkur, in this Ministry.

**Financial Assistance to Sportsmen/Athletes**

1125. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to the young sportsmen/athletes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount disbursed so far during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) if not, whether the Government has received any requests from any sportsmen/athletes for financial assistance; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government on such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government provides financial assistance directly to young sportsmen/athletes for advance training and participation in international competitions under the following schemes:

(i) Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training: Under this scheme, financial assistance of upto Rs. 5.00 lakh is provided to promising sports persons as per identified performance criteria.

(ii) National Sports Development Fund: Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for promotion of sports in general & specific sports disciplines & individual sports persons in particular for achieving excellence at National & International level.

(c) to (e) The financial assistance to sports persons is not provided state-wise but on the basis of his/her performance. The financial assistance provided to the sportspersons/athletes during the last three years under these schemes is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Financial Assistance Released		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Talent Search & Training	79.78	112.97	146.81
National Sports Development Fund	17.50	122.11	62.26

[Translation]

#### Telephone Adalats in Maharashtra

1126. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Telephone Adalats' organized in each district of Maharashtra, particularly in Nasik district in the year 2004-05 till date;

(b) the number of cases registered and settled during the said period;

(c) the details of concessions provided to the subscribers; and

(d) the district-wise details of 'Telephone Adalats' to be organized in the State during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

#### Details of Telephone Adalats

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	01/04/2004 to 31/03/2005				01/04/2005 to till date				No. of Telephone adalats to be held during 23/11/2005 to 31/03/2006
		No. of Telephone adalats organized	No. of cases Registered	No. of cases settled	Details of concessions provided	No. of Telephone adalats organized	No. of cases Registered	No. of cases settled	Details of concessions provided	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Ahmed Nagar	07	85	85	0	01	27	27	0	5
2	Akola	06	67	67	Rs.30070	03	35	35	Rs.2673	3
3	Amravati	06	05	05	00	04	1	10	0	2
4	Aurangabad	06	13	13	15382 calls	03	5	5	34564 calls	3
5	Beed	07	26	26	NTC cases*	04	16	16	NTC cases*	2
6	Bhandara	06	35	35	Rs.4395	04	15	15	0	2
7	Buldhana	05	28	28	0	01	3	3	0	5
8	Chandrapur	02	06	06	Rs.282	01	1	1	Rs.2147	5
9	Dhule	08	31	31	0	04	13	13	0	2
10	Gadchiroli	05	0	0	0	02	2	2	0	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	Goa	07	24	24	Rs.3868	04	13	13	Rs.16847	2
12	Jalgaon	06	11	11	Rs.4735	03	3	2	0	3
13	Jalna	06	09	09	Rs.10711	02	8	8	Rs.360	4
14	Kalyan	05	28	28	Rs.1225	03	10	10	0	3
15	Kohlapur	04	38	38	0	03	25	25	Rs.525	3
16	Latur	06	29	29	Rs.3221	03	8	8	0	3
17	Nagpur	03	15	15	Rs.6556	03	24	24	Rs.13387	3
18	Nanded	04	10	10	Rs.8630	04	6	6	0	2
19	Nasik	07	95	95	Rs.21008	04	31	31	Rs.2074	2
20	Osmanabad	02	10	10	0	01	1	1	0	5
21	Parbhani	01	06	06	0	0	0	0	0	6
22	Pune	05	148	133	Rs.1106	03	14	14	Rs.8670	3
23	Raigadh	08	29	29	Rs.6818	03	9	9	Rs.331	3
24	Ratnagiri	06	12	12	0	04	7	7	0	2
25	Sangli	05	22	22	Rs.2410	03	12	12	0	3
26	Satara	06	24	24	Rs.18595	03	13	13	0	3
27	Sindhudurg	04	13	13	0	01	6	6	0	5
28	Solapur	05	140	140	0	04	48	48	0	2
29	Wardha	08	16	16	0	04	19	19	Rs.180	2
30	Yavatmal	05	32	32	Rs.110	05	0	0	0	1
31	MTNL Mumbai	42	377	377	Rs.16529	20	48	48	Rs.1212	20

\* New Telephone Connection - NTC

[English]

**Coal Sector Reforms**

1127. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal sector in the country needs wide ranging reforms;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to sell coal through bidding in open market with a view to provide coal to the common man;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage of coal out of the total production proposed to be sold through such bidding;

(f) whether the Government proposes to decontrol the coal sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith its effect on production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The following reform measures have been initiated/are proposed:

- 1) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 which seeks to permit private participation in coal mining, without the present restriction of captive use, in order to augment coal production in the country.
- 2) Pricing of coal was de-regulated with effect from 1.1.2000. The Tariff Commission is being involved in pricing of coal for the Power Sector and to suggest modalities for pricing of coal for other sectors.
- 3) Import of Coal has been liberalised and has been placed under the Open General License (OGL). Import duty has also been reduced to 5%.
- 4) Allocation process for captive coal blocks has been streamlined. 86 Coal blocks have been allotted/decided for allocation.
- 5) A proposal to decide allocation of Coal blocks on competitive bidding basis is under consideration of the Government.
- 6) To facilitate early production from captive blocks, disposal of coal production during the development phase to CIL has been allowed.
- 7) Greater autonomy given to the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, by delegating powers relating to procurement of all items except explosives to the subsidiaries.
- 8) Sale of coal through electronic auction was introduced during 2005-06 on trial basis where consumers and traders can participate for their requirement of coal from preferred sources.
- 9) A pilot study to generate sufficient data for gradation of coal on the basis of Gross Calorific Value (GCV)

has been entrusted to the Central Fuel Research Institute.

- 10) Ministry of Coal has communicated to the Department of Consumer Affairs its concurrence to deletion of coal from the list of essential commodities.
- 11) The revival package for ECL and BCCL are presently under consideration in consultation with the Board of Re-construction for the Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE).
- 12) As per the existing policy, 100% FDI for setting up plants for processing of coal and captive mine for power plants, 74% for exploration or mining for captive production for other end uses (Iron & Steel, Cement) is allowed. The Ministry had recommended to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that FDI cap may be raised to 100% for exploration and mining of coal/lignite for captive consumption for all permissible activities and this should be allowed through the automatic route.
- 13) CIL is exploring the possibilities of acquiring coal properties abroad.

(c) and (d) Sale of Coal and products through bidding in open market with a view to provide coal to all intending buyers commenced through trial e-auction with effect from November, 2004 at BCCL. It was subsequently extended to all other subsidiaries of CIL from April, 2005.

(e) A quantity of 10 million tonnes had been initially earmarked during the year 2005-06 to be offered from different subsidiaries of CIL under e-auction.

(f) and (g) Steps taken to decontrol the coal sector have been indicated in reply to parts (a) and (b) above. Coal production in the country has been continuously increasing over the last few years.

#### Charging of Rates by Private Operators

1128. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various private operators charge different rates from their mobile phone subscribers than the rates charged by the Government companies;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of the guidelines and directions from TRAI in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 provides flexibility to all cellular operators to fix tariffs. The mobile operators are at liberty to offer alternative tariff packages to subscribers depending upon their usage pattern. Both the Government owned companies and the private mobile operators give a number of tariff options for their subscribers, and these vary in terms of combinations of monthly rentals, call charges and free call allowances. There are large number of tariff plans and schemes available in different service areas due to competition.

[Translation]

#### **Sports Stadiums in States**

1129. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Rajasthan regarding construction of stadiums in the State;

(b) If so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the details of the sports stadiums in the States including Rajasthan at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a 'State' subject under the Constitution. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create basic sports infrastructure including stadia throughout the country. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this direction by providing Central assistance for creation of various sports facilities including Stadia under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Government.

The Sports Infrastructure schemes have been transferred to the State sector w.e.f 1.4.2005 and all State

Governments including Rajasthan were informed accordingly in February, 2005. No funds have been allocated in the budget for 2005-06 for sports infrastructure. In view thereof fresh proposals have not been entertained from any State including Rajasthan as they have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources.

(c) The details of Sports Stadia presently available in the States are not maintained by this Ministry. However, the State-wise details of various projects including Stadia completed with central assistance during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 for creation of sports facilities including stadia under the Schemes of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructures" and "Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges" have been indicated in the enclosed Statement

#### **Statement**

*Number of Sports Infrastructure Projects completed under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 31.3.2005)*

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	0	10	2
4	Bihar	0	0	0
5	Chattisgarh	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	5
9	Haryana	1	0	2
10	J&K	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12	Karnataka	12	4	4
13	Kerala	1	3	1

1	2	3	4	5
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	1
15	Maharashtra	0	7	2
16	Manipur	0	0	2
17	Meghalaya	0	4	0
18	Mizoram	4	14	0
19	Nagaland	0	17	11
20	Orissa	0	1	0
21	Punjab	1	0	0
22	Rajasthan	0	1	1
23	Sikkim	0	0	0
24	Tripura	0	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	4	19	9
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1
27	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	2	0
29	Delhi	0	0	0
30	UT Chandigarh	0	0	0
Total		27	85	42

*Number of Sports Infrastructure Projects including Stadla completed under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 (As on 3 1.3.2005)*

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	0	2	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Andhra Pradesh	0	2	6
4	Bihar	0	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
9	Haryana	2	0	0
10	J&K	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12	Karnataka	2	2	1
13	Kerala	1	0	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	0
15	Maharashtra	0	0	3
16	Manipur	0	0	2
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0
20	Orissa	0	1	1
21	Punjab	0	3	3
22	Rajasthan	0	2	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0
24	Tripura	0	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	3	6	7
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	5	1
27	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	0	0
29	Delhi	0	0	0
30	UT Chandigarh	0	0	0
Total		9	24	31

*[English]***Captive Mining**

1130. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted coal-blocks for captive mining in joint sector;

(b) if so, the details of the joint sector companies along with the composition and share capital ratio of these companies; and

(c) the procedure and criterion for allocation of coal-blocks for captive mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The following companies which have been allocated coal blocks have formed joint venture companies for captive mining of coal. The names of the joint ventures formed by them and the percentage of equity holding of each in the joint venture companies are as under:

Sl.No	Name of the allocatee	Block	Name of the Joint Venture	Equity holding in percentage
1.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDC)	Tara (East) & Tara (West)	Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited	WBPDC - 20% DPL - 6% EMTA Group - 74%
2.	Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC)	Saroshatoli	Integrated Coal Mines Limited	CESC - 26% RPG Group - 74%
3.	Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB)	Pachwara (Central)	PANEM Coal Mines Limited	PSEB - 26% EMTA Group - 74 %
4.	Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)	Baranj - I to IV Kiloni Manoradeep	Karnataka Emta Coal Mines Limited	KPCL - 26% EMTA Group - 74 %
5.	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited (TVNL)	Badam	Tenughat Emta Coal Mines Limited	TVNL - 26% EMTA Group - 74%
6.	WBPDC	Borejora Gangaramchhak Gangaramchak Bhadulia	Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited	WBPDC - 20% DPL - 6% EMTA Group - 74%
7.	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	Barjora (North) Kasta - East Khagra Joydev	DVC Emta Coal Mines Limited	DVC - 26% EMTA - 74%
8.	WBPDC	Pachwara (North)	Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited	EMTA Group - 74% WBPDC - 20% DPL - 6%

(c) 148 coal blocks have been identified for allocation for captive mining and a list of such blocks have been displayed in the website of the Ministry of Coal. A Screening Committee headed by Secretary (Coal) in the

Ministry of Coal receives applications for allocation of coal/lignite blocks for captive mining, scrutinises the same and after obtaining comments from the concerned Administrative Ministries and State Governments takes

decision on allocation of blocks based on the track record of the company, status of the end use project and the matching of the quality and quantity of the block with the requirement of the applicant company etc. Allocation of coal blocks is made by the Government on consideration of the recommendations of the Screening Committee.

#### Coal Linking to KTPP-VI

1131. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) has forwarded any proposal for long term coal linkage to proposed Kothagudam Thermal Power Plant Project Stage VI (KTPP-VI);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status;

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken thereon; and

(d) if not, alternative arrangement being considered for supply of coal to KTPP-VI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) The project is expected to come up in the Xlth Plan. Coal India Limited has indicated availability of coal for this Project from IB Valley Coalfield of MCL towards the end of XI Plan period i.e. 2011-12 when coal evacuation arrangements would be in place.

#### Ill-treatment of Indian Visitors at Sharjah

1132. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian visitors were ill treated at Sharjah by the Tajikistan Airlines employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter has been taken up with the concerned country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) No such complaint was received by the Consulate General of India in Dubai. However, it is learnt that on November 10, 2005, there appears to have been an altercation at Sharjah International airport between some Indian passengers and the employees of Tajikistan Airlines, as some passengers with valid reservations were off-loaded from Tajik Air flight No. TJ-112 to New Delhi due to overbooking of the flight. This caused some commotion at the airport but the situation was brought under control by the airport staff.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### IT Pact with China

1133. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China had signed any co-operation pact on IT during the last visit of the Chinese Premier to India;

(b) if so, the main terms and features of the pact, indicating the involvement of private sector therein; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in pursuance thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Abandoned Mines of CCL

1134. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of abandoned Central Coalfields Limited's (CCL) mines in Jharkhand and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether CCL is aware that local persons in connivance with its officials/guards extract coal illegally from these mines;

(c) if so, the quantum of coal extracted illegally every year;



(d) the number of persons so far killed while extracting coal illegally from abandoned mines; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the CCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The details of abandoned mines in CCL and the reasons for their closure are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Continuous raids/checks by security personnel of CCL as well as joint raids with District Police

are carried out in order to prevent illegal extraction of coal. During the year 2005-06 (upto October'05), a total of 344 raids/checks have been carried out leading to a recovery of 337.5 tonnes of coal.

(d) As per information available with CCL, five persons have been killed since February 2004, while extracting coal illegally from non-working part of mines/ abandoned mines.

(e) Police have registered cases against 2 and 4 officials of the company in Giridih and Rajrappa areas, respectively.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of Mine	Type	Reason of Closure
1	2	3	4
1	Angwall	OC	Isolated patch, under HFL and adverse geo-mining condition
2	Sayal D	OC	Depletion of reserve
3	Piparadih	UG	Adverse geo-mining condition
4	Dhobidih	UG	Reserve depletion, Scientific Mining not possible
5	Karkatta	UG	Merged with Karkatta OC
6	Pure Dhori	OC	Scientific mining not possible due to adverse geo-mining conditions, amalgamated with Dhori Khas OC, converted to OCP
7	Chalkari	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
8	Mael	UG	Merged with Rajrappa OCP
9	Rauta	OC	Exhaustion, adverse geo-mining condition
10	Gidhanla	OC	Isolated patch lacking infrastructure, to be amalgamated with future Ramgarh West OCP Block to work other mine
11	Dakra	UG	Merged with Dakra OC
12	Pakri Barwadih	UG	Lack of infrastructure
13	Semra	OC	Exhaustion, adverse geo-mining condition, thin steep seams
14	Sugla	OC	Depletion of reserve and remote location
15	Kuju	OC	Reserve depletion, adverse economy, merged with Kuju UG Project
16	Ara	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy, merged with Ara OCP

1	2	3	4
17	A. Karanpura	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
18	K. Karanpura	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
19	Lapanga	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
20	Hutar	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
21	Pindra	OC	Depletion of Reserve
22	Giridih	UG	Reserve depletion, adverse economy
23	Tapin-S	OC	Adverse economy and land problem
24	Govindpur	OC	Adverse economy and land problem
25	Saunda - D	OC	Fire, adverse geo-mining condition, adverse economy, land problem
26	Tapin-S	UG	Reserve depleted
27	Hindegir	UG	Adverse economy, depletion of Reserve
28	Dhori Khas	OC	Depletion of economic reserve

OC - Opencast  
 UG - Underground  
 HFL - Highest Flood Level  
 OCP - Opencast Project

### Vacant Posts in ISM&H

1135. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the number of posts of doctors of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) lying vacant in each dispensary and unit of CGHS, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to fill up these posts;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A statement showing the number of posts of

doctors of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy laying vacant in each dispensary & unit of CGHS-city wise is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Requisitions for filling up of these posts have been sent to UPSC.

(d) The posts will be filled up on the receipt of recommendations of the UPSC.

### Statement

S.No	Name of City	Number of posts lying Vacant		
		Ayurveda	Homoeopathy	Unani
1	2	3	4	5
1	Delhi	8	3	-
2.	Chennai	1	1	-
3.	Kanpur	1	2	-

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Kolkata	-	1	1
5.	Merrut	-	1	-
6.	Mumbai	-	1	-
7.	Nagpur	-	1	-
8.	Pune	-	1	-
9.	Ahmedabad	1	-	-
10.	Jaipur	1	-	-
11.	Lucknow	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>

#### **Transfer of Ownership**

1136. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority allows the transfer of ownership in the name of subsequent buyers;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure and the amount charged by the DDA from the buyer;

(c) whether the water bills raised by DDA remains in the name of original allottee even after transfer of the ownership of flat in the name of buyer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that transfer of ownership is allowed under the policy of conversion of properties from leasehold to freehold. The buyer is required to submit an application duly supported by necessary documents and the conversion fee as prescribed from time to time along surcharge of 33.33%.

(c) and (d) After the transfer of ownership of the flat, the buyer is required to apply for change in the water bills to the concerned civic authority failing which the water bills remain in the name of original allottee.

#### **Alleged Sabotage in Dolphin Mobile Network Billing System Software**

1137. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a major alleged sabotage in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Dolphin mobile network billing system software in Delhi and Mumbai as reported in the Hindustan Times dated October 26, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. No such sabotage has occurred in billing system of Dolphin mobile of MTNL.

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

#### **Economic Growth and Employment**

1138. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic growth has not resulted in generation of employment for the rural people in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has conducted any study to find out the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has any proposal to implement policy with the focus on employment generation through different short-term programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) As per the estimates made by Planning Commission in the Tenth Five Year Plan, the employment opportunities in rural areas increased from 241.04 million in 1993-94 to 250.89 million in 1999-2000, the latest year for which the results of the NSSO quinquennial survey on employment and unemployment are available.

(d) and (e) Accelerating the rate of growth of the economy, while ensuring an acceleration in growth of

agriculture and other labour intensive sectors, is an integral part of the sustainable employment strategy of Government. Implementation of the various policy initiatives, emerging from the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan, will help to achieve this objective.

#### **Sharing of Infrastructure**

1139. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any relaxation has been given for sharing of infrastructure between domestic and international call centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to indigenous BPO sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has further relaxed the terms and conditions for sharing of common infrastructure between domestic call centres and international call centres. The salient features are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The sharing of common infrastructure would enable the Indian BPO sector to use infrastructure optimally because of difference in time zones for domestic and international operations. This will further enhance the cost competitiveness of Indian BPO sector in comparison with the countries like Philippines, South Africa, Pakistan and China etc. Consequently, it will boost BPO/call centres industry and improve the employment opportunities in the country.

#### **Statement**

##### *Salient Terms and Conditions - Sharing of common infrastructure between Domestic and International Call Centres*

Sharing of the common infrastructure between Domestic & International OSP Centres has been further liberalised. Following are the salient features:-

- i) No turnover restriction. The company shall have atleast 50 seats setup in the call centres.
- ii) Sharing of common infrastructure is permitted for Captive as well as Non-Captive call centres.

iii) OSP will have two options for sharing of common infrastructure:

a. **OPTION 1: Separate and Independent EPABX to be used for International and domestic OSP Centers with sharing of same operators position.**

- A bank Guarantee of Rs. 2.5 crore.

- Only one call shall be offered to the operator position at a time (be it domestic or international, incoming or outgoing)

b. **OPTION 2: International and domestic OSP Centres to share the common EPABX with logical partitioning.**

- A bank Guarantee of Rs. 5 Crore.

- The Company shall submit a certificate from the Vendors of the EPABX that the software is capable of logically bifurcating the common infrastructure into two separate and independent environments for the Domestic OSP and International OSP Centres.

iv) In case of violation of OSP terms and conditions following actions shall be taken:

a. Cancellation of OSP registrations held by the company and the company shall be debarred from taking OSP registration for 3 years from the date of cancellation of such registration.

b. the directors of the board of a company violating OSP terms and conditions shall be debarred for 3 years from taking, directly or indirectly, OSP registration.

The amended "Terms & Conditions – Other Service Provider Category" dated 2.11.2005 are at DoT's website at [www.dot.gov.in/osp/osp.html](http://www.dot.gov.in/osp/osp.html).

#### **Hearing and Speech Programme for Kids**

1140. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of people with profound hearing disability is about one million;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal to launch a 'Hearing and Speech for Kids' Programme on the lines of the Sight for Kids' launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir, As per the information given by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment the estimated number of persons with profound hearing disability works out to 9.74 lakhs which is about one million.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Review of Functioning of CGHS

1141. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the P.K. Paul Committee to review the functioning of CGHS has submitted its recommendations;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted; and

(d) the interim measures the Government has taken to improve the functioning of CGHS, particularly relating to procurement of medicines?

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

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Committee will submit its recommendations once deliberations are over.

(d) Improvement of various services provided in the CGHS dispensaries is an ongoing process. There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspection, supervision and guidance by Senior Officers of CGHS.

The Govt. has already approved the combined formulary for the MSO/CGHS in respect of 504 proprietary

drugs. Action to procure medicines for the CGHS as per the formulary has been initiated. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries has improved further.

#### Loan from World Bank for Bharat Nirman Programme

1142. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS  
SADHU YADAV:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sought loan from the World Bank for the Bharat Nirman Programme as reported in the Hindi daily Navbharat Times dated August 24, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States in which the Bharat Nirman programme has been launched;

(d) the details of the progress made in achieving the physical targets under the Programme till date, State-wise;

(e) the manner in which the programme is being monitored;

(f) whether the private sector is proposed to be involved in the Programme;

(g) if so, the areas identified for the private sector;

(h) the main bottlenecks identified in the successful implementation of the programme; and

(l) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome those bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) During the discussions which the World Bank President

had in the Planning Commission on 19th August 2005, the broad features of Bharat Nirman were explained to him. The details in respect of World Bank Projects which are reflected in the Country Assistance Strategy of the World Bank and may fall under the scheme of Bharat Nirman are as under:

I) **Rural Roads Sector:**

S.No.	Project	Sector	Loan (IBRD)/ Credit (IDA) Amount	Remarks
1.	Rural Roads Project II	Central	US \$ 500 million - Blend	Posed to the World Bank

II) **Water Sector Restructuring:**

1.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	State	US \$ 150 million - Blend	Posed to the World Bank
2.	Dam rehabilitation and improvement	Central	US \$ 200 million - IBRD	Posed to the World Bank
3.	Hydrology II Project	Central	US \$ 105 million - IBRD	Approved by the World Bank but agreement is yet to be signed
<b>Total</b>			<b>US \$ 455 million</b>	

III) **Rural Water Supply Sector:**

S.No.	Project	Sector	Credit (IDA) Amount	Remarks
1.	Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	State	US \$ 100 million	Posed to the World Bank
2.	Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	State	US \$ 150 million	Posed to the World Bank
3.	Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	State	US \$ 100 million	Posed to the World Bank
4.	National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Central	US \$ 200 million	Posed to the World Bank
<b>Total</b>			<b>US \$ 550 million</b>	

(c) and (d) The agenda of Bharat Nirman involves both on-going programmes and upscaling some of the on-going programmes like Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidhyutikaran Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme,

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana and use of Universal Service Obligation Fund for village public telephone. The state-wise physical and financial targets

under the various above programmes for the current year 2005-06, which is the first year of Bharat Nirman, are given in the enclosed statement-I to VI.

(e) The Committee on Rural Infrastructure set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is monitoring the implementation of Bharat Nirman. While the agenda of Bharat Nirman is not new, the effort here is to impart a sense of urgency to the goals set out, make the programme time-bound, transparent and accountable.

(f) and (g) The fund requirements for Bharat Nirman will be met through an appropriate-mix of budgetary support by the Centre and States, external aid, market borrowing and beneficiary contribution (in some cases). The terms of reference to the Committee on Rural Infrastructure include developing innovative financing agreements for complementing public investment. At present the principal implementing agencies are either Government bodies or PSUs.

(h) and (i) Since Bharat Nirman is in the first year of implementation, no statement can be made in this regard. However, if bottlenecks arise, these would be brought to the notice of the Committee on Rural Infrastructure for resolution.

**Statement-I**

Sub-component:	Irrigation
Goal:One crore (10 m.ha.) of additional irrigation capacity through	
Major & medium irrigation	4.2 m.ha.
Minor irrigation schemes	: 2.8 m.ha.
- Surface water	: 1 m.ha.
- Ground water	: 1 m.ha.
Enhancing utilization of completed projects	: 2.00 m.ha.
- ERM of major & medium projects	: 1 m.ha.
- Repair, renovation & restoration of water bodies/ ERM of MI schemes	: 1 m.ha.
Ground water development in area with unutilized potential for benefit of small & marginal farmers and tribals - dalits	: 1.00 m.ha.

State governments have been requested to work out year-wise targets. Central assistance being extended to states under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to complete 'last mile' major and medium projects and also for minor irrigation in special category states/ areas. Status of releases in 2005-06 are as under:

(Rs crores)

S.No.	State	Ceiling (including loan and grant)	Releases of grant component made till 31.10.2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	600	17.889
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	--
3.	Assam	35	7.245
4.	Bihar	75	10.764
5.	Chhattisgarh	100	--
6.	Goa	5	--
7.	Gujarat	1000	162
8.	Haryana	25	3.3405
9.	Himachal Pradesh	25.69	7.011
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	40	7.8903
11.	Jharkhand	31	--
12.	Karnataka	400	53.4078
13.	Kerala	50	--
14.	Madhya Pradesh	750	13.4457
15.	Maharashtra	800	8.634
16.	Manipur	18	3.15
17.	Meghalaya	4	--

1	2	3	4
18.	Mizoram	10	4.5
19.	Nagaland	8	--
20.	Orissa	330	71.1984
21.	Punjab	50	4.6965
22.	Rajasthan	400	29.8035
23.	Sikkim	1.5	0.3375
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	--
25.	Tripura	20	--
26.	Uttar Pradesh	275	30.774
27.	Uttaranchal	30.5	16.902
28.	West Bengal	40	--

**Statement-II****Sub-component: Rural Electrification:**

**Goal:** Every village to be provided electricity: remaining 1,25,000 villages. In addition 23 million households to be also provided with electricity.

For 2005-06, the target is to cover 10674 villages in West Bengal (938), Bihar (556), Uttar Pradesh (9180). An allocation of Rs.1100 cr. has been made for the programme in 2005-06. 496 villages in Uttar Pradesh & 521 villages in Bihar have been electrified till November, 2005.

**Funds released:**

(Rs in lakhs)

1.	Uttar Pradesh	639.96
2.	Bihar	200.24
3.	West Bengal	114.49

**Statement-III****Sub-component: Housing**

**Goal:** 60 lakh houses to be constructed for rural poor

**Programme:** Indira Awas Yojana

**Progress in 2005-06**

(Rs crores)

S.No.	States	Physical (No. of Dwelling)		Financial	
		Target	Achievement \$	Central Allocation	Central Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	130130	40606	243.99	123.73
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4603	1207	9.49	4.91
3	Assam	101790	40190	209.94	109.81
4	Bihar	384111	131780	720.21	256.21
5	Chhattisgarh	20124	2648	37.73	26.09
6	Goa	801	372	1.50	0.86
7	Gujarat	63819	12304	119.66	48.22
8	Haryana	8960	2941	16.80	11.19



1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Himachal Pradesh	2873	324	5.93	4.12
10	J&K	8924	553	18.41	10.13
11	Jharkhand	34261	16668	64.24	53.84
12	Karnataka	50136	21066	94.00	51.39
13	Kerala	27880	12928	52.28	30.22
14	Madhya Pradesh	40022	18369	75.04	57.80
15	Maharashtra	78478	27125	147.15	85.61
16	Manipur	3996	0	8.24	2.95
17	Meghalaya	6959	2202	14.35	3.36
18	Mizoram	1483	466	3.06	1.65
19	Nagaland	4605	2896	7.73	4.13
20	Orissa	75465	23779	141.50	79.40
21	Punjab	11081	3194	20.78	13.14
22	Rajasthan	32070	8690	60.13	34.91
23	Sikkim	881	160	1.82	1.26
24	Tamil Nadu	52101	12107	97.69	54.26
25	Tripura	8967	337	18.49	10.32
26	Uttar Pradesh	172527	49841	323.49	193.09
27	Uttaranchal	7863	6806	16.22	10.81
28	West Bengal	104098	54266	195.18	119.75
29	A&N Islands	1238	30	3.09	0.00
30	D&N Haveli	206	0	0.52	0.00
31	Daman & Diu	92	6	0.23	0.00
32	Delhi	-	-	-	-
33	Lakshadweep	80	1	0.20	0.20
34	Pondicherry	617	52	1.54	0.00
<b>Total (All India)</b>		<b>1441241</b>	<b>493914</b>	<b>2730.63</b>	<b>1403.16</b>

§: Achievement in most of the States are upto September 2005.

**Statement-IV****Sub-component: Rural Drinking Water Supply****Goal: 55067 uncovered habitations to be covered. Slipped back and water quality problems to be addressed****Programme: Accelerated Rural Water Supply****Progress in 2005-06 (upto September, 2005)****(Rs crores)**

S.No.	States	Physical (No. of habitations)		Financial	
		Target	Achievement \$	Central Allocation	Central Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	2974	852		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	397	27	210.32	125.13
3	Assam	1871	885	90.60	49.96
4	Bihar	1623	33	152.80	84.25
5	Chhattisgarh	4000	3640	153.24	76.62
6	Goa	1	0	51.54	29.52
7	Gujarat	1059	581	1.93	0.00
8	Haryana	791	35	123.39	65.80
9	Himachal Pradesh	1336	688	35.90	17.95
10	J&K	479	122	106.05	53.02
11	Jharkhand	2888	529	200.73	103.36
12	Karnataka	4790	3251	55.29	31.67
13	Kerala	831	1146	175.55	104.04
14	Madhya Pradesh	3352	8279	53.86	30.85
15	Maharashtra	1894	324	151.01	75.50
16	Manipur	133	44	275.91	165.55
17	Meghalaya	348	48	31.10	17.15
18	Mizoram	130	0	35.83	0.00
19	Nagaland	64	0	25.69	14.15
20	Orissa	2176	3140	26.37	14.53
21	Punjab	800	98	124.05	71.06

1	2	3	4	5	6
22	Rajasthan	9952	5582	36.42	20.86
23	Sikkim	71	22	440.34	249.57
24	Tamil Nadu	7500	1181	10.83	5.97
25	Tripura	425	52	118.75	59.37
26	Uttar Pradesh	2209	2668	31.78	17.51
27	Uttaranchal	450	270	247.64	141.86
28	West Bengal	3669	1480	57.25	32.79
29	A&N Islands	14	0	133.08	76.23
30	D&N Haveli	18	1	0.09	2.10
31	Daman & Diu		0	0.06	0.00
32	Delhi		0		0.00
33	Lakshadweep	10	0	0.05	0.00
34	Pondicherry	15	21		
<b>Total (All India)</b>		<b>56270</b>	<b>34999</b>	<b>3157.45</b>	<b>*1736.49</b>

\* Excluding Swajaldhara component which is demand driven.

#### Statement-V

##### Sub-component: Rural Roads

Goal: Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly & tribal areas) to be provided an all-weather road, remaining 66802 habitations to be covered.

Programme: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Programme in 2005-06

S.No	States	Physical (upto September 2005)				Financial (Rs. crore)	
		Target		Achievement		(upto November 2005)	
		Length of roads in Km.	Habitations to be covered	Length completed	Habitations covered	Central Allocation	Central Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2629.00		462	12	100.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	340.00	72	0	0	52.00	0.00
3.	Assam	2061.00	1278	209	9	176.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	281.00		402	0	332.00	181.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	4467.00	2228	1204	309	330.00	235.07
6.	Goa	0.00		2	2	5.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00		222	119	60.00	44.35
8.	Haryana	362.00	149	242	0	25.00	20.56
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1235.00	579	59	47	132.00	40.14
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00		0	0	60.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.00		114	66	195.00	67.96
12.	Karnataka	612.00	428	384	3	105.00	89.97
13.	Kerala	0.00		11	7	25.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5626.00	1909	1327	314	535.00	301.29
15.	Maharashtra	0.00		119	51	140.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	0.00		145	0	28.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	93.00	30	73	33	40.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00		101	4	27.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	0.00		290	21	25.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	3097.00	1170	792	152	268.00	100.00
21.	Punjab	0.00		45	26	30.00	9.46
22.	Rajasthan	5446.00	1273	1211	338	286.00	231.96
23.	Sikkim	144.00	57	22	14	25.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00		409	192	85.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	81.00		16	12	35.00	19.79
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4231.00	2932	2015	1284	445.00	631.37
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00		67	13	95.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	999.00	915	682	1000	221.00	1.30
<b>Total (All India)</b>		<b>31704.00</b>	<b>13020.00</b>	<b>10625.00</b>	<b>4028.00</b>	<b>3682.00</b>	<b>1974.78</b>

**Statement-VI***Sub-component: Rural Telephone Connectivity:**Goal: Every village to be connected by telephone, remaining 66822 villages.**State proposed to be covered and achievements in 2005-06 are given in table below:*

S.No.	State	Total No. of villages	Coverage upto 30.09.2005	Releases made so far (Rs crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074	208	0.36
2.	Assam	8931	1976	0.32
3.	Jharkhand	1694	30	--
4.	Gujarat	4144	1657	0.33
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1002	234	0.14
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1755	206	0.23
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11894	3454	1.60
8.	Chhattisgarh	5043	675	--
9.	Maharashtra	6441	1844	0.28
10.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	2128	76	0.07
11.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	1550	30	--
12.	Orissa	4899	--	--
13.	Rajasthan	12386	2493	2.71
14.	Uttaranchal	3881	195	--
<b>Total</b>		<b>66822</b>	<b>13078</b>	<b>6.04</b>

For 2005-06, a provision of Rs.37.50 cr. has been made.

**Merger of MTNL and BSNL**

1143. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to merge the MTNL with the BSNL;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, the Government has been considering different options for restructuring

MTNL and BSNL with the objective of bringing higher synergy in their operations. A consortium of consultants was appointed to aid and assist the Government in this exercise. The consultants have submitted their recommendations after examining several alternatives of restructuring including merger of MTNL with BSNL. Considering complexity of the issues involved in the restructuring exercise, the Government is carefully weighing all options before taking a decision so that interest of all the stakeholders are protected and the ultimate objectives of restructuring exercise are met.

#### AIDS Epidemic

1144. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UN has warned that India is on the brink of AIDS Epidemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cheaper and more easily available drugs have led to 80% decline in AIDS deaths in India between 1997 and 2003;
- (d) if so, the details of the role of Government agencies in tackling AIDS;
- (e) the extent to which the remaining deaths can also be prevented; and
- (f) details of the plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) UNAID report indicates that although level of HIV infection prevalence appears to have stabilized in some states (such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra), it is still increasing among the at-risk population in several other states. As a result, overall HIV prevalence continues to rise. State-wide prevalence among pregnant women is still low among the poor and densely populated northern states of UP and Bihar. But then even a small increase in HIV transmission could translate into huge numbers of people infected due to high population.

(c) to (e) GOI has initiated the free ART programme from April 2004. It is too early to comment on the decline

following the availability of cheaper drugs in India. Mean survival of AIDS cases without ARV treatment is about 14 months. With regular use of ARV treatment death in the first year can be reduced up to 4 to 8% and survival will be above 90% in them who are on regular ARV treatment.

(f) At present there are 40 ART centers providing treatment to 15,735 patients.

It is planned to extend free ART services to 180,000 AIDS cases till August 2011.

Facility of management of opportunistic infection in AIDS cases are being provided at all the medical college & district hospitals. ART is also being given to the HIV infected antenatal mothers & their newborn through 375 hospitals for prevention of infection from mother to newborn. States/UTs have been asked to provide facility for prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV through all of the remaining government medical colleges & district hospitals during the current year in the country.

#### Easing of Investment Norms for NRIs

1145. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

- (a) whether more and more NRIs are willing to return from UK and other developed countries to start their own business in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the facilities currently available to encourage the skilled and professional NRIs to set up ventures of their choice in different sectors of Indian economy;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to facilitate and encourage their return to India in order to set up business and other ventures;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has eased investment norms in respect of NRIs;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the benefits likely to be accrued to the country and to the NRIs as a result of this action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) to (f) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent FDI policy (which includes investment by NRIs) under which FDI upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route in most sectors. Proposals requiring prior approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in a time bound manner. Activities under the automatic route do not require any prior Government approval and the investor is only required to report to the office of RBI within 30 days of inward remittance and/or issue of shares to non-residents.

Under the FDI Scheme, the additional facilities available to NRIs including investment in the housing and real estate sector and investment upto 100% in the air transport sector as against the permissible limit of FDI at 49% in the Civil Aviation sector.

(g) Both are benefiting in terms of norms investment, closeness with the home country & good returns for NRIs

#### **Encouragement of Water Sports**

1146. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plans to encourage water sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kerala has requested for assistance for boat races including Nehru Trophy boat race at Alleppey; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI

OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Government of India is implementing a Scheme for Promotion of Adventure to encourage young people to undertake various adventure activities on land, air and water in the country.

(b) Under the Scheme of Promotion of Adventure, financial assistance is provided to State Governments, Educational Institutions, Nehru Yuva Kendras, National Service Scheme, Non-Governmental Organisations and group of individuals for undertaking adventure activities in the country.

Water adventure activities for which assistance is provided are long distance swimming, surfing, boat sailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, power boating and long distance motor boating, kayaking, canoeing etc. in India. The beneficiaries under the scheme are within the age-group of 13-35 years.

(c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has not received any proposal from Government of Kerala for boat race at Alleppey during this financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Budgetary Allocation for North East Region**

1147. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Ministries/Departments have strictly complied with the stipulated mandatory 10 percent budgetary allocation for the North East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof showing the percentage of allocation of each Ministry since its inception, year-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are instances wherein such amounts have been spent on projects intended to serve the entire country;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise, Ministry/Department-wise; and

(f) the details of authorization with regard to each such adjustment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (f) Information is being collected.

[Translation]

**Vaccination Programme  
In States**

1148. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the vaccination programme for children introduced in the States;

(b) whether arrangements for vaccination of newborns are being made by all the States;

(c) if not, the names of the States which are not making such efforts;

(d) whether some of the States are being assisted by the World Health Organisation for the said purpose;

(e) if so, whether such States have made/are making adequate arrangements to implement the vaccination programme; 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) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir, WHO is providing technical assistance and support in Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for Strengthening Routine Immunization.

(e) Yes Sir, these States have made/are making adequate arrangements to implement the Vaccine Programme in the States.

(f) Under the Strengthening of Routine Immunization programme, which is a part of the National Rural Health Mission, all the States (including Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) are being provided funds for various activities such as Alternative vaccine delivery, Mobility support to District Immunization Officers, Provision of Computer Assistant at district level for maintenance of Logistics and MIS data, Focus on slums and under served areas, cold chain maintenance, Review Meetings, Mobilization of Children through ASHA workers, Training for Immunization activities, and Printings of Immunization cards etc., which are to be implemented in all the States as per their own programme Implementation plan (PIP) approved by Government of India.

[English]

**National Programme for Control  
of Blindness**

1149. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given power to State Governments to provide grants to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the field of blindness control;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under the National Programme for Control of Blindness Control; and

(c) the funds earmarked to State Governments under the programme during 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Funds for implementation of National Programme of Control of Blindness are released to District Blindness Control Societies through State Blindness Control Societies of the States/UTs including grant to non Governmental Organizations working in the field of Blindness Control. A Statement indicating Grant-in-Aid allocated to States/UTs for implementing National Programme for Control of Blindness during 2005-06 is enclosed.



## Statement

## Grant-in-Aid Allocated to States/UTs for Implementing N.P.C.B. During 2005-2006

State/UTs	GIA for New Schemes											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	GIA for fee catops	GIA for SES	GIA for Recuring Eye Donation	Vision Centres @ 25000	Eye Banks @ Rs. 10 lakh	Eye Donation Centres @ Rs 1 lakh	Training	IEC	SBC's Remunerations others activities & Contingencies	Total GIA (Rs. 1 Lakh)		
<b>Major States</b>												
Andhra Pradesh	150.00	50.00	20.00	25.00	10.00	3.00	0.00	12.00	10.00	20.00	300.00	
Bihar	110.00	20.00	2.00	12.50	10.00	3.00	--	7.50	5.00	15.00	210.00	
Chhattisgarh	80.00	18.00	1.50	5.00	10.00	3.00	25.00	7.50	5.00	15.00	170.00	
Goa	6.00	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	7.00	20.00	
Gujarat	500.00	40.00	30.00	12.50	10.00	3.00	25.00	20.00	10.00	19.50	670.00	
Haryana	100.00	15.00	1.00	5.00	10.00	3.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	16.00	160.00	
Himachal Pradesh	15.00	4.00	0.75	2.50	10.00	0.00	25.00	5.00	5.00	12.75	80.00	
Jammu & Kashmir	12.00	5.00	0.50	2.50	10.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	7.00	16.00	60.00	
Jharkhand	70.00	20.00	0.50	6.25	10.00	0.00	25.00	15.00	10.00	18.25	175.00	
Karnataka	250.00	40.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	380.00	
Kerala	100.00	20.00	5.00	2.50	10.00	3.00	0.00	10.00	7.00	17.50	175.00	
Madhya Pradesh	250.00	40.00	2.50	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	17.50	360.00	
Maharashtra	500.00	70.00	20.00	12.50	10.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	10.00	17.50	660.00	
Orissa	140.00	25.00	1.00	7.50	10.00	2.00	25.00	14.00	10.00	15.50	250.00	
Punjab	100.00	20.00	2.50	12.50	10.00	3.00	25.00	10.00	7.00	20.00	210.00	
Rajasthan	240.00	40.00	4.00	5.00	30.00	9.00	25.00	17.00	10.00	20.00	400.00	
Tamil Nadu	600.00	50.00	30.00	30.00	10.00	3.00	0.00	20.00	7.00	20.00	770.00	
Uttar Pradesh	500.00	80.00	5.00	12.50	10.00	0.00	25.00	17.50	10.00	20.00	680.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Uttaranchal	40.00	20.00	1.00	5.00	10.00	0.00	25.00	7.00	7.00	---	130.00
West Bengal	150.00	25.00	7.50	25.00	10.00	3.00	25.00	10.00	7.00	---	---
Sub Total	3913.00	603.50	145.75	224.25	210.00	38.00	276.00	236.50	154.00	340.00	6140.00
<b>North-Eastern States</b>											
Assam	60.00	5.00	0.50	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	10.50	85.00
Manipur	6.00	2.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	5.50	18.00
Meghalaya	10.00	2.00	0.00	2.50	10.00	0.00	25.00	1.00	1.00	5.50	57.00
Mizoram	6.00	1.00	0.00	2.50	10.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	1.00	5.00	27.00
Nagaland	3.00	1.00	0.10	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	4.90	12.00
Sikkim	3.00	0.50	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	4.50	11.00
Tripura	30.50	3.00	0.50	5.00	10.00	1.00	25.00	1.00	1.00	5.00	82.00
Sub Total	123.50	15.50	1.20	22.00	40.00	3.00	50.00	9.50	9.00	46.30	320.00
<b>UTs</b>											
Andaman & Nicobar	4.00	0.25	0.10	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.60	5.00	12.00
Chandigarh	5.00	1.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.50	5.00	15.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.40	5.00	7.00
Daman & Diu	1.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.40	5.00	7.00
Delhi	15.00	10.50	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	10.00	14.50	74.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.50	4.00	5.00
Pondicherry	8.00	1.00	0.45	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	5.05	20.00
Sub Total	34.00	13.00	13.05	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.25	13.40	43.55	140.00
E.S./A.F.C.R.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4070.50</b>	<b>632.00</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>41.00</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>265.25</b>	<b>176.40</b>	<b>429.85</b>	<b>6600.00</b>

SBC's could be adjusted while releasing GIA

### Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh

1150. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India propose to sign extradition treaty with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of Indian prisoners in Bangladesh jails and vice versa; and
- (d) the details of consular access provided to these citizens of both countries lodged in the jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The process for concluding an extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh is at an initial stage.

(c) About 893 Indian prisoners are presently in Bangladesh jails. As regards Bangladeshi prisoners in Indian jails, information is being collected from State authorities and will be made available when received.

(d) During current year Indian High Commission in Dhaka was permitted Consular access on eight occasions. The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi requested for Consular access on four occasions, which was granted.

### Import of Sub-Standard Drugs

1151. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sub-standard medicines are being imported by the drug suppliers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has started registration of foreign companies which are into importing drugs in order to check the inflow of sub-standard medicines in to the country;
- (e) if so, whether a number of foreign companies have been registered without any inspection of the premises as laid down in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act; and

(f) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No Sir. Adequate provisions have been laid down under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules to ensure that sub standard drugs are not imported into the country. These registration of overseas manufacturers and of each drug grant of import licence in Form 10 and checking of every import consignment by the port officers.

(e) and (f) Registration requirements for a drugs were introduced in April 2003. Inspection of overseas manufacturing sites is not mandatory criteria for registration of import of drugs. Presently, such imported drugs, which have been in use in the country for considerable period, and are duly approved, have been registered, provided all formalities prescribed in Schedule D(I) and D(II) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules are complied with. The applicants are required to submit regulatory status of the drug, free sale certificate and GMP certificate in WHO format or certificate of pharmaceutical product (COPP), issued by regulatory authority of the country of origin and Free Sale approval, issued by the regulatory authorities of other major countries.

[Translation]

### Infectious Diseases Spread by Slaughter Houses

1152. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people living close to legal/illegal slaughter houses are contracting infectious diseases;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct an enquiry into it;
- (c) if so, the details of diseases being spread alongwith the number of people infected by these slaughter houses, State-wise and union territory-wise; and
- (d) the action being 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) According to ICMR, Workers in slaughterhouses are exposed to various infectious

diseases such as Brucellosis, Erysipeloid, Leptospirosis, Dermatophytosis and warts. These diseases are transmitted through contact with the infected animals or through the contamination of water. The data in respect of number of people infected by such diseases is not centrally maintained.

(d) State Pollution Control boards have pursued slaughterhouses to set up requisite pollution control facilities to ensure proper management of waste. Slaughterhouses have also been asked to adopt modern slaughtering operations for good environmental management.

[English]

#### Slow Spread of Broadband

1153. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked the Government to accept its recommendations on extending fiscal incentives to users and tax benefits to service providers in order to overcome the slow spread of broadband in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the target fixed by the Government for 2005 and the achievements made so far in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase broadband subscribers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have recently sent a communication to the Government recommending that Government should conduct a review of various provisions of Broadband Policy and should have reconsiderations on TRAI's earlier recommendations pertaining to Local Loop unbundling and fiscal incentives for Broadband. However, the suggestions made by TRAI are under examination.

(c) Broadband Policy 2004 envisages 3 million broadband subscribers by end of year 2005. As on 31.10.2005, the number of Broadband subscribers was 0.71 million approximately based on available information.

(d) The Government has recently announced reduction in licence fee for NLD/ILD Service licensees from 1st January 2006. This is expected to reduce cost of Broadband services and is expected to result in increase in Broadband subscribers.

#### Criteria for Special Allocation to State

1154. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for providing special allocation to each State during the current plan period;

(b) the measures taken to bridge the gap between plan and the allocated amount;

(c) whether any discussions were held with the States regarding those problems due to which funds are required constantly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Allocation of Central Assistance for the Annual Plans of States consists of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for Special & Other Programmes. While allocation under NCA is based on the Gadgil formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991, allocations under ACA for EAPs and Special & Other Programmes are based on their own specific criteria and guidelines. The Gadgil formula takes into account, inter alia, population, per capita income, performance in tax effort, fiscal management and progress in respect of national objectives specifically in the area of population control, elimination of illiteracy, ontime completion of EAPs and land reforms. Allocation of ACA for EAPs is based on utilization of funds for projects. Allocation for Special and Other Programmes depends on the needs of States and sectoral priorities under each programme.

(b) and (c) Plan sizes of States are finalized on the basis of discussions held between Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of States on the basis of States Own Resources (SOR) and Central Assistance (CA). The gap if any between the Aggregate Plan Resources and Plan Outlay is to be financed by additional resource mobilization by State Governments.

(d) Does not apply.

*[Translation]*

**Charging of Double Fee by  
Diagnostic Centres**

1155. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether double fee is charged for tests in Diagnostic Centres listed in the C.G.H.S Panel as reported in The Hindustan dated October 12, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the rules regarding Diagnostic Centres to be listed in the C.G.H.S panel;

(d) whether rules in his regard are adhered to; and

(e) if not, the action likely to be taken by the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Private/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to charge as per CGHS approved rates.

(c) The empanelment of private hospital/diagnostic centre under CGHS is done as per criteria/rule contained in the tender document.

(d) Yes, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Free Telephone Facility to Senior  
Citizens and Pensioners**

1156. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide free telephone facility to the Senior Citizens including pensioners who have attained the age of 65 years;

(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) Sir, there is no such proposal to provide free telephone facility to the Senior Citizens and Pensioners. However, Senior Citizens including Pensioners of the age of 65 years and above are allowed to register their demand under Non-OYT Special Category, which is a priority category, without payment of any registration amount.

Further, Senior Citizens can avail the Sulabh Plan of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for basic telephony where rental is substantially lower varying from Rs.99/- to Rs.160/- per month depending upon exchange capacity. For new telephone connection under Plan 250, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is providing 25% rebate in rental and installation charges to Senior Citizens.

The two Telecom Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely BSNL and MTNL are working in highly competitive environment and they make their own commercial policies depending upon the market conditions.

**New Centres of BARC**

1157. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new centres of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC);

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up one new campus of BARC.

(b) East Coast (near Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Not Applicable.

**Development of Backward District**

1158. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to SQ No. 555 dated May 4, 2005 and state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the Development of Tamenglong district of Manipur;

(b) the scheme proposed to be taken up in the district;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far out of the sanctioned amount during the last one year, scheme-wise;

(d) the details of development schemes taken so far, scheme-wise; and

(e) the criteria for identifying the said district as backward district of Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a): The total amount approved/sanctioned for implementation of schemes under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in Tamenglong district is Rs. 45 crore to be released over a period of three years.

(b) The schemes in the District Plan of Tameng-

long district are included in the sectors of road, education, health, water supply, etc.

(c) and (d) Funds amounting to Rs. 15 crore were released under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for Tamenglong district during the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05. The State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 12.38 crore up to September, 2005. List of schemes along with the cumulative expenditure incurred up to September, 2005 is given in enclosed statement. Since then, a further amount of Rs. 7.50 crore has been released for this district on 28.10.2005.

(e) Tamenglong district was identified as the most backward district of the State based on a detailed study on inter-district disparities conducted by the State Government. The criteria for identifying the district as most backward district of Manipur is low literacy, low agriculture productivity, high incidence of poverty, low growth, etc.

#### **Statement**

*List of schemes and the cumulative expenditure incurred against each scheme up to September, 2005.*

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Cumulative Expenditure incurred up to September, 2005 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Construction of agriculture road	280.45
2.	Construction of Higher Secondary Schools	528.80
3.	Construction of High School Rooms	172.44
4.	Construction of OT, ICU and X-Ray Block at district hospital at Tamenglong district headquarter	38.62
5.	Construction of CHCs	142.86
6.	Construction of Toilet Complex at district hospital and Nungba	10.56
7.	Construction of Mortuary at district hospital and community health centre at Nungba	10.17
8.	Repairing of district hospital at Tamenlong district HQ.	7.00
9.	Construction of compound fencing at district hospital and community health centres at PHCs in Tamenglong	9.80
10.	Procurement of equipment and furniture for hospital, community health centre and primary health centre.	37.66
<b>Total</b>		<b>1238.36</b>

**Single Window Clearance for Biotech/  
Genetic Products**

1159. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had recommended for a single window clearance for Biotech/Genetic products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forest, a task force on recombinant pharma had been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR, for streamlining the current regulatory framework on recombinant based therapeutic products. The final report of the said committee has since been submitted. The same is under consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forest.

**Adequate Treatment to Mentally  
Challenged People**

1160. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether almost half of the mentally challenged peoples remain untreated as per the findings of the Expert Committee on Health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to provide adequate treatment to the mentally ill peoples?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Nearly 2-3% of the population suffer from severe psychiatric disorder and 5-7% from the common mental disorder. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in providing mental health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat

the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government's National Mental Health programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country, strengthen the 37 Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake IEC activities and research and training.

**Per Capita Expenditure on Medical Treatment**

1161. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount spent/being spent per capita by the Union Government on medical treatment;
- (b) whether this amount is far less in comparison to other countries of the world such as Japan, America, England, France and China;
- (c) if so, the comparative details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government is considering to increase the amount; and
- (e) if so, by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The per capita expenditure on health by the Union Government for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 137.

(b) and (c) Comparative figures of per capita health expenditure across countries for the year 2002 are given below:

Country	Total per Capita Health Expenditure (PPP-USD)
India	96
Japan	2133
America	5274
England	2160
France	2736
China	261

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, 2005.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Under the mandate of the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government, health care is one of the seven thrust areas wherein it is proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from the current 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with main focus on Primary Health Care. The Budgetary allocation for health sector has increased by about 30% in 2005-06 over that of 2004-05.

*[Translation]*

#### **Sickle Cell Disease**

1162. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has included the sickle-cell disease in the National Health Programme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; 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) Sickle Cell Disease is a genetic disorder due to defective haemoglobin structure and is generally prevalent in the tribal areas of the country. This being a hereditary disease, prevention is the only remedy available which includes creating awareness in the affected region. The Indian Council of Medical Research has also taken several intervention measures in the affected areas as a part of their research projects. Under National Rural Health Mission the Government has made special provisions for better health care to the general population including the tribal population in the underserved states for prevention and control of Communicable and Non-communicable diseases including locally endemic diseases, which would cover Sickle Cell Disease.

*[English]*

#### **Demolition/ Reduction of Height of Police Memorial**

1163. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Urban Arts Commission has suggested for demolition or reduction of the height of Police Memorial under construction at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi;

(b) whether any review of the Memorial has been ordered by the Delhi High Courts;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this matter;

(d) whether aesthetic, environmental and architectural aspects of the structure will be considered by the Government before taking any decision in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Urban Art commission (DUAC) has informed that in compliance with the directions dated 23.8.2005 of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, DUAC has reviewed the proposal of National Police Memorial in its meeting held on 17.10.2005 and recommended lowering the height of the Police Memorial below the height of trees within or in the immediate vicinity of the site for maintaining the grandeur and perspective of Shanti Path.

(c) to (e) The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has informed that these aspects were taken into consideration during formulation of the initial proposal which was also duly approved by the local body and Delhi Urban Art Commission. CPWD has further stated that keeping in view the order of the Hon'ble Court and in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs on whose behalf the project was executed, if need be, a revised proposal will be submitted to the DUAC after taking into account the aesthetic environmental and architectural aspects of the structure.

#### **Micronutrient Deficiency among Women and Children**

1164. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a public-private-civic partnership with a time bound programme to tackle the micronutrient deficiencies among the women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented by the Union Government?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Although the issue of micronutrient deficiencies is being addressed through various public interventions, there is no proposal at present to establish public-private-civic partnership in this regard.

**Amendment of Prevention of  
Corruption Act, 1988**

1165. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the existing Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988; 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 PACHOURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is examining various suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, through appropriate amendment, where considered necessary.

**Allocation for Karnataka**

1166. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned/allocated/released for Karnataka during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount utilized in the Ninth Five Year Plan by the State Government;

(c) the amount refunded by the State;

(d) the main reasons for refunding the amount;

(e) the amount sanctioned/allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan till September, 2005 to Karnataka; and

(f) the projects on which this amount has been utilized by the Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The approved Ninth Plan outlay of Karnataka was Rs.25,631.70 crores (at 1996-97 prices.)

(b) to (d) The amount spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan by the State Government was Rs.26,248.36 crores (at 1996-97 prices.) Resources are raised for State Plan expenditure out of State's own resources and Central assistance in line with the formula approved by the NDC and guidelines formulated by the Planning Commission and the Central government.

(e) and (f) The approved Tenth Plan outlay of Karnataka was Rs.43,558.22 crores (at 2001-02 prices) to be spent by the State on schemes and programmes included in approved and budgeted Annual and Five Year Plans.

**Allocation of coalfields to  
NALCO and SAIL**

1167. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminum Company (NALCO) and the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have requested the Government to allot them coal fields exclusively to meet their coal requirement;

(b) if so, the details of the requests made by these two Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether the Government has considered their requests; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) NALCO had asked for the Utkal-E, Utkal-F, Radhikapur, Talabira-II, Bijahan & Nuagaon-Telisahi blocks for captive mining. SAIL have requested for Tasra and Sitanala coal blocks. Utkal-E coal block has been allocated to M/s NALCO. They have been informed that other blocks except Nuagaon-Telisahi applied for by them have been decided for allocation to other companies. Tasra was allocated to Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), now a subsidiary company of SAIL. The request of NALCO for Nuagaon-Telisahi and the request of SAIL for Sitanala block are under examination in the Ministry.

### Practice or Organ Trading

1168. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of organ trading continues in the country unchecked despite the Act banning it;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any study to identify the discrepancies in the implementation of the said Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some incidents of alleged illegal transplant of kidneys have come to the notice of Government of India. Information supplied by various States during the last two years regarding such incidents are given in the enclosed statement. Sale and purchase of human organs including kidneys is already banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Under Section 13 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the Central and the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act. The Appropriate Authorities appointed by the Central and the State Governments are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs, including kidneys. The Director General of Health Services is the Appropriate Authority in respect of the Union Territories including National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, in respect of the States, action under the

Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, has to be taken by the concerned Appropriate Authority. This Act already contains stringent provisions for punishing removal of human organ without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs.

(c) to (e) A Review Committee was constituted as per the Delhi High Court 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 Organ Rules, 1995. The final report of the Committee has been received by the Government. The synopsis of the recommendations made by Review Committee are broadly as under:-

- (i) It may be mandatory that all cases of near relative donor also be routed through authorization committee.
- (ii) Guidelines for working of authorization committee has been laid down.
- (iii) Testing to establish genetic relationship and histocompatibility should be done in the laboratories approved by Directorate of Health Services.
- (iv) ORBO activities should be expanded.
- (v) A national organ transplant program with special emphasis on cadaver donations be promoted.
- (vi) Every hospital should make it mandatory for ICU/ treating medical staff to make requests to relative of brain dead patient for organ donation and should report all brain dead potential donor to ORBO.
- (vii) There should be incentives for the family of Cadaver Organ Donor.
- (viii) Simplification of Rules have been suggested.

The Government is examining the Report of the Review Committee for implementation in phase.

#### Statement

*Details of Cases of Illegal Kidney and other organ transplantations in various government/private hospitals reported during the last two years from various States.*

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Details of cases reported
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil

1	2	3
3	Assam	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	Govt of Chhattisgarh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
5	NCT of Delhi	Delhi Police has registered six FIRs in respect of illegal kidney transplantations ill Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi and Kakkar Hospital, Amritsar. As a result, ten people were arrested by the Delhi Police. The Commissioner, Delhi Police has informed on 31.07.2005 that the cases included in the five out of the six FIRs are currently under investigation. The case included in the sixth FIR (No.186 dated 28.03.2004) has been filed as un-traced for want of evidence.
6	Goa	Nil
7	Gujarat	Nil
8	Haryana	Nil
9	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
10	Maharashtra	Government of Maharashtra have informed that in January 2004 Dr. S.P. Trivedi of Bombay Hospital, Mumbai has been prosecuted for the charges of cheating and forgery that deal with illegal trafficking of human organs. The matter was sub-judice as on 3.12.2004.
11	Manipur	Nil
12	Mizoram	Nil
13	Meghalaya	Nil
14	Nagaland	Nil
15	Pondicherry	Nil
16	Punjab	Government of Punjab have reported that sale of human organs for transplant, particularly kidneys was detected in a few cases in the State which are under investigation of the Special Investigating Team constituted for this purpose. As a result of the investigations, many people have been arrested and one hospital, namely, Ram Saran Dass Kishorilal Charitable Trust Hospital, Amritsar has been deregistered. However, there is no large scale exploitation of the poor in the name of organ transplant in the State.
17	Sikkim	Nil

1	2	3
18	Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Tamil Nadu have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
19	Tripura	Nil
20	Uttar Pradesh	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to the light between 1.1.2004 and 30.11.2004.
21	West Bengal	Govt of West Bengal have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
22	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil
23	Chandigarh	Nil
24	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil
25	Daman and Diu	Nil
26	Lakshadweep	Nil

*[Translation]***Alleged Irregularities in Privatization  
of Electricity in Delhi**

1169. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission is conducting an enquiry regarding alleged irregularities caused as a result of privatization of electricity in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which this enquiry commenced?

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 PACHOURI):

(a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had sought a report on certain points concerning alleged irregularities in privatization of electricity

in Delhi. The requisite report was sent to the CVC by the Chief Secretary of Delhi on 31st October, 2005.

*[English]***Issuance of Diplomas by National  
Board of Examination**

1170. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

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

(a) whether the National Board of Examination set up by the Government to standardize the level of medical education in India has also started issuing diplomas to medical post-graduates;

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

(c) whether the courts have ruled this practice to be illegal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to discontinue the practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The National Board of Examinations was set up as a Registered Society with the primary objective of improving the quality of medical education by elevating the level of establishing standard of postgraduate examination in modern medicines. The Board is also awarding degree called "Diplomate of National Board". The Diplomate qualifications awarded by NBE have been equated with postgraduate degree and post doctoral level qualifications of Universities and are included in the First Schedule to Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, vide Notification dated 19th September, 1983.

#### **Indo-French Nuclear Energy Co-operation**

1171. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has promised to meet civilian nuclear energy needs of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this commitment came during the meeting between our Prime Minister and the French President in Paris;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between India and France in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) France has acknowledged the need for full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India and to work towards objective by working with other countries and the Nuclear Suppliers Group and by deepening bilateral cooperation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

*[Translation]*

#### **Change in Metro Routes**

1172. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to change the declared routes of Metro Rail in NCR of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has accorded approval for the construction of the changed routes;

(d) if so, the details of the changed routes;

(e) whether the documents regarding the proposed change in the routes for Metro Scheme have been submitted to the Union Government by the NCR States; and

(f) if so, the details of changed NCR routes and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The routes so far approved for the Delhi Metro are:

(i) Shahdara - Rithala

(ii) Vishwa Vidyalaya - Central Secretariat

(iii) Indraprastha - Dwarka with extension to Dwarka sub-city.

No change is contemplated in any of them.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **Deployment of Employees by Contractors**

1173. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Government Departments some employees are being provided by the contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make such employees permanent;

- (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 PACHOURI):  
 (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The data is not centrally maintained.

(c) to (e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government as engagement of employees through contractors is not intended to provide them regular government employment.

**Per Capita Consumption Expenditure  
 in Rural Areas**

1174. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

- (a) whether the per capita consumption expenditure is just Rs. 554 in rural areas of the country;  
 (b) If not, the factual position in this regard;  
 (c) whether 27 per cent out of the above mentioned people are capable of spending only Rs. 380 per month;  
 (d) If not, the estimates of the Government in this regard; and  
 (e) the names of the States where the people of rural areas are spending less than the national average of Rs. 554 per month and the details of expenditure being incurred by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per NSS 59th round (January-December, 2003), the all India average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) was Rs. 554 for rural India. However the (MPCE) for rural India was Rs.

565 as per estimates of NSS 60th round conducted during January-June 2004.

(c) and (d) As per NSS 59th round (January - December, 2003) 31 percent people in rural areas spent below Rs. 380. However as per the NSS 60th round (January-June, 2004) about 29 percent spent below Rs. 380.

(e) The average monthly Per Capita Expenditure for the people of rural areas in the selected States where it is less than the National average of Rs. 554 as per NSS 59th round and Rs. 565, as per NSS 60th round are given in enclosed Statement-I. Details of average expenditure per person per 30 days in these States as per NSS 60th round are given in enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

Sl. No.	State	Average monthly per capita expenditure (Rural) in Rupees (59th round)	Average monthly per capita expenditure (Rural) in Rupees (60th round)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	567*	557
2.	Assam	520	532
3.	Bihar	415	442
4.	Chhattisgarh	409	417
5.	Jharkhand	422	405
6.	Karnataka	558*	502
7.	Madhya Pradesh	455	437
8.	Orissa	398	414
9.	Tripura	561*	498
10.	Uttar Pradesh	509	538
11.	West Bengal	538	580*

\* Average MPCE is higher than the National average in the respective rounds.

Source: Report no. 490 NSS 59th round (January- December, 2003) and NSS 60th round (January - June, 2004)

**Statement-II**

*Average expenditure (Rs) per person per 30 days on groups of items of consumption: States-wise*

Item Group	Rural		
	Andhra Pradesh	Assam	Bihar
1	2	3	4
Cereal	118.88	132.31	111.76
Gram	0.12	0.20	1.02
Cereal Substitutes	0.01	0.01	0.02
Pulses & Their Products	17.44	17.07	14.54
Milk & Milk Products	31.10	21.15	35.50
Edible Oil	27.59	25.09	22.86
Egg, Fish & Meat	25.09	46.74	10.64
Vegetables	29.54	44.58	31.32
Fruits (Fresh)	8.50	4.59	2.70
Fruits (Dry)	2.29	0.21	0.46
Sugar	6.87	8.11	6.92
Salt	1.17	1.70	0.99
Spices	16.15	8.13	9.32
Beverages, Etc.	26.64	21.87	12.55
Food Total	311.38	331.75	260.59
Pan	0.93	9.64	0.74
Tobacco	9.28	5.26	3.82
Intoxicants	9.86	6.03	2.02
Fuel And Light	45.46	45.24	45.03
Clothing	37.67	39.98	34.73
Footwear	4.12	4.86	3.32
Education	14.38	14.14	10.07
Medical (Institutional)	6.21	3.06	12.79

	1	2	3	4
Medical (Non-Institutional)	26.92	11.23	13.06	
Misc. Consumer Goods	37.54	29.77	21.79	
Consumer Services	33.35	20.13	21.33	
Rent	5.87	0.10	0.04	
Taxes And Cesses	1.60	0.18	0.02	
Durable Goods	12.55	10.33	13.13	
Non-Food Total	245.73	199.94	181.90	
Total Consumer Expenditure	557.11	531.69	442.49	
Clothing (Second Hand)	0.16	1.36	0.17	
Durable Goods (Second Hand)	0.14	0.02	0.00	
Estd. No. of Hhs (00)	127303	40390	110459	
Estd. No. of Persons (00)	524647	214718	608966	
No. of Sample Persons	2972	2374	4361	

Source: Report No. 505, Nss 60th Round (January - June, 2004)

*Average expenditure (Rs) per person per 30 days on groups of items of consumption: States-wise*

Item Group	Rural		
	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Karnataka
1	2	3	4
Cereal	124.62	112.11	91.92
Gram	0.15	1.26	1.00
Cereal Substitutes	0.00	0.01	0.00
Pulses & Their Products	12.07	13.03	17.14
Milk & Milk Products	9.37	19.04	31.03
Edible Oil	19.61	20.93	21.33
Egg, Fish & Meat	8.87	13.91	16.24
Vegetables	30.56	34.85	23.23

1	2	3	4
Fruits (Fresh)	3.81	2.54	12.22
Fruits (Dry)	0.71	0.12	1.99
Sugar	8.12	6.91	10.94
Salt	0.96	1.19	1.02
Spices	7.65	9.12	12.65
Beverages, Etc.	11.37	13.04	32.12
Food Total	237.88	248.06	272.80
Pan	1.26	0.85	4.31
Tobacco	4.40	3.92	5.99
Intoxicants	4.46	5.04	4.69
Fuel And Light	46.65	39.22	50.88
Clothing	34.58	32.25	40.77
Footwear	3.74	3.43	4.89
Education	7.21	11.33	9.33
Medical (Institutional)	1.70	3.16	8.00
Medical (Non-Institutional)	16.96	9.26	16.80
Misc. Consumer Goods	27.02	24.51	33.51
Consumer Services	16.80	15.82	35.13
Rent	0.05	0.90	3.03
Taxes And Ceases	0.01	0.00	1.61
Durable Goods	14.64	7.05	9.87
Non-Food Total	179.45	156.73	228.80
Total Consumer Expenditure	417.33	404.78	501.60
Clothing (Second Hand)	0.05	0.08	0.24
Durable Goods (Second Hand)	1.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4
Estd. No of Hhs (00)	34835	36682	69645
Estd. No. of Persons (00)	181347	208451	347599
No. of Sample Persons	1269	1685	2079

Source: Report No. 505, Nss 60th Round (January - June, 2004)

*Average expenditure (Rs) per person per 30 days on groups of items of consumption: States-wise*

Item Group	Rural		
	Madhya Pradesh	Orissa	Tripura
1	2	3	4
Cereal	83.75	112.25	113.86
Gram	0.62	0.20	0.05
Cereal Substitutes	0.30	0.01	0.26
Pulses & Their Products	16.21	11.04	11.72
Milk & Milk Products	42.72	12.34	17.98
Edible Oil	21.16	16.32	20.49
Egg, Fish & Meat	4.45	17.12	51.58
Vegetables	23.05	34.12	38.67
Fruits (Fresh)	4.22	4.81	6.85
Fruits (Dry)	0.86	0.24	0.20
Sugar	12.05	7.08	5.47
Salt	0.92	1.23	1.55
Spices	10.20	7.66	8.69
Beverages, Etc.	13.94	17.56	16.30
Food Total	234.43	241.98	293.67
Pan	2.12	4.27	7.00
Tobacco	7.25	3.25	18.83
Intoxicants	3.56	3.43	6.62
Fuel And Light	51.65	43.75	42.24



1	2	3	4
Clothing	33.78	31.68	28.99
Footwear	5.20	2.43	3.79
Education	9.70	6.94	19.33
Medical (Institutional)	4.86	7.51	2.98
Medical (Non-Institutional)	19.20	15.82	24.33
Misc. Consumer Goods	25.55	21.75	20.14
Consumer Services	25.37	14.71	20.66
Rent	0.45	0.24	0.00
Taxes And Cesses	0.26	0.03	0.00
Durable Goods	13.96	16.29	9.00
Non-Food Total	202.91	172.11	203.91
Total Consumer Expenditure	437.34	414.08	497.58
Clothing (Second Hand)	0.51	0.09	0.04
Durable Goods (Second Hand)	0.02	0.10	0.00
Estd. No. of Hhs (00)	84793	64626	5867
Estd. No. of Persons (00)	463079	311406	28215
No. of Sample Persons	2753	2307	811

Source: Report No. 505, Nse 60th Round (January - June, 2004)

*Average expenditure (Rs) per person per 30 days on groups of items of consumption: States-wise*

Item Group	Rural	
	Uttar Pradesh	
1	2	
Cereal	93.96	
Gram	0.47	
Cereal Substitutes	0.06	
Pulses & Their Products	19.18	

1	2
Milk & Milk Products	54.21
Edible Oil	24.82
Egg, Fish & Meat	8.66
Vegetables	30.25
Fruits (Fresh)	5.03
Fruits (Dry)	2.15
Sugar	14.02
Salt	0.79
Spices	10.20
Beverages, Etc.	16.43
Food Total	280.23
Pan	2.22
Tobacco	8.12
Intoxicants	2.82
Fuel And Light	50.97
Clothing	38.90
Footwear	5.61
Education	17.13
Medical (Institutional)	6.50
Medical (Non-Institutional)	35.42
Misc. Consumer Goods	27.60
Consumer Services	38.72
Rent	0.19
Taxes And Cesses	0.08
Durable Goods	23.89
Non-Food Total	257.95
Total Consumer Expenditure	538.18
Clothing (Second Hand)	0.08

1	2
Durable Goods (Second Hand)	1.14
Estd No. of Hhs (00)	218838
Estd. No. of Persons (00)	1292269
No. of Sample Persons	8927

Source: Report no. 505, NSS 60th round (January - June, 2004)

#### Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers

1175. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority proposes to rehabilitate thousands of slum dwellers of Delhi in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expected expenditure in this action plan;

(c) whether the DDA has allotted land for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay;

(f) whether the DDA has rehabilitated slum dwellers in Delhi during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Rehabilitation of slum/jhuggi dwellers is primarily done by Slum & JJ Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it relocates squatters from its land in cases where the land is immediately required for public project or in pursuance of Court orders.

(c) to (e) DDA has issued No Objection Certificate (NOC) for acquisition and development of land measuring 692 acres by Slum & JJ Department of MCD for rehabilitation in the areas of Bawana, Holambi Kalan, Bhalaswa, Savada/Ghevra and Kadipur.

(f) and (g) DDA has reported that 51 jhuggie clusters have been removed and 18751 jhuggie dwellers have

been relocated in various re-settlement colonies in the last 3 years. An amount of Rs.82.50 crores (Approx.) has been spent on their resettlement.

#### Constitution of Task Force

1176. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a task force to put a check on unauthorized construction;

(b) if so, the time by which the task force is likely to be constituted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, all local bodies are empowered to take action against unauthorised construction as per the provision of Acts and Rules.

[English]

#### Survey of Food Habits of Kids

1177. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Diabetes Research Centre has conducted a survey on the food habits of Delhi kids;

(b) if so, the details of its findings;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct similar surveys through the same or any other agency for other places in the country to ascertain the food habits of the children across the country; 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) "The Delhi Diabetes Research Centre", a non governmental organization in collaboration with Government of Delhi launched an awareness and education programme and a study focusing on hazards of obesity and its relation with diabetes, among the school children in Delhi. The study concluded that lack of physical

activity/exercise combined with excess consumption of fast food and aerated drinks are the major causes of over weight/obesity in these children.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to conduct similar surveys through the same or other agency for other places in the country to ascertain the food habits of the children across the country.

[Translation]

**Corruption Cases Against CGHS Officers**

1178. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the CBI has registered a number of cases against CGHS officers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the cases registered;

(c) names of the officers who have been dismissed from service as a result thereof;

(d) whether officers found involved in corruption cases continue to be in service; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) CBI has registered 9 cases against CGHS officers during last 3 years. Details of the cases are given in enclosed statement. In three cases vide RC No. RCCAA2004A0030, RC-23 (A)/2002-GWH-Shg and RC 13 (A)/2003 CBI investigation report has been received. In one case warning has been issued to the officer and in two other cases CBI has recommended for major penalty proceedings. In the other 6 cases CBI's investigation is still in progress.

*Statement*

*List of CBI cases against CGHS officers during last 3 years*

S.No.	Regular Case Number
1	2
1.	RC-JAI-2004 A 0015/SPE/CBI/Jaipur dated 31.7.2004

1	2
2.	RC-JAI-2004-A0016/SPECBI/Jaipur dated 31/7/2004
3.	RC-DAI/2004-A-0001 dated 01.01.04
4.	RCCAA 2004A0030 dated 24/6/2004
5.	RCJAI2003A0005
6.	RC-2/2004-EOU. VII 292 dated 12/1/2004
7.	RC-23(A )/2002-GWH-Shg
8.	RC.GWH2004A0012 dated 21/6/2004
9.	RC13(A)/2003

[English]

**Allotment of Land to Ineligible Institutions**

1179. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA had allotted land to ineligible and non-functioning institutions at concessional rates for setting up hospitals and dispensaries for the poor;

(b) whether the DDA had allotted institutional land at concessional rate to 27 such hospitals out of which 23 had not started functioning even after a lapse of period ranging from four to over thirty years from the date of allotment of land;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any step to recover land and outstanding dues from ineligible institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. The Comptroller & Auditor General in its report had, however, stated that 3 allotments were made to ineligible institutions namely Aryavaldyashala Kottakal, Unique Hospitals and Dharmshila Cancer Foundation Hospital. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that each of these 3 allotments was duly approved by the competent authority after considering all the facts of the case.

(b) to (d) DDA has reported that of the institutions allotted land for hospitals, only 16 hospitals have not yet completed the construction. Out of these, in 2 cases

construction is in progress, in 8 cases the permissible/extended time for construction is not yet over, and 1 case involves change in land use. Further, in 2 cases the allotment has been cancelled and in remaining 3 cases action has been initiated for cancellation.

[Translation]

#### Expansion of Safdarjung Hospital

1180. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for expansion of Safdarjung Hospital;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount proposed to be allocated for implementation of this scheme;
- (d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the reasons, if any, for the delay in the commencement of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) While modernization/provision of latest equipment/restructuring/addition of new facilities in any hospital is a continuous on-going process, at present, no proposal is under consideration for expansion of Safdarjung Hospital.

[English]

#### AIDS Programme in Karnataka

1181. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched an "AIDS Free Bellary" programme in the District of Bellary, Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the detail of the programme launched;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated released and spent for the purpose;

(d) the results achieved so far;

(e) whether the State Government of Karnataka has misused the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the AIDS Control programme in the district;

(f) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government has received any proposal to construct Modern Hospitals in Bellary District to cure AIDS patients;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the time by which these hospitals are likely to be constructed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "AIDS Free Bellary" programme includes support from three agencies, namely Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNDP (CHARKA) and National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).

(c) The details of fund allocated, released and spent by agency wise is given in enclosed statement.

In addition funds have been provided through the State AIDS Control Society (SACS), Karnataka from NACO for establishment & implementation of Voluntary Counseling & Testing Centres (VCTC), Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), counseling, Care & support, blood safety measures and Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) facility. District Bellary has also been sanctioned as one of the '3' comprehensive model districts project started with support of WHO from current year.

(d) The result achieved are as under:

Training of peripheral level health workers such as, 281 Health Workers (Male & Female) and 1235 Anganwadi Workers in the district have been completed under the Coordinated HIV/AIDS and STD Response through Capacity building and Awareness (CHARKA) Project. Mass Awareness Campaign launched in collaboration with MYRADA and Mahila Samakhya at the village level in Taluks of Bellary district.

Workplace interventions in collaboration with ILO have been launched for mining, steel, garment, granite, transport and hotel industries in the district.

3 combined Voluntary Counseling & Testing Centres (VCTC), Pre-vention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) Centres established in VIMS Bellary, General Hospitals in Kudligi and Hospet Taluks. In addition two VCTC, one PPTCT, one Care & Support Centre, 2 blood bank, one ART centre have also been established.

Till August 2005, a total of 8732 antinatal mother tested for HIV of which 122 found positive who were covered by counseling prophylactic Nevirapine to mother & their new born.

Similarly 6794 persons were tested at VCTC till June 2005 of which 1810 were found positive who were given both pre & post counseling.

(e) No such complaint has been received.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

(h) to (j) There is no proposal received from state government for construction of such hospitals. However, VIMS hospital, Bellary has been sanctioned ART centre for starting free ART treatment.

### **Statement**

#### *The details of funds released and spent Agency-wise*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Agency	Period.	Amount allocated & Released	Spent
1.	UNDP/CHARKA Project through Karnataka SACS	1.1.04 to 31.12.04	14.70	14.59
		1.1.05 to 30.10.05	30.711	27.189
2.	Bill & Millenda Gate Foundation through Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)	1.1.04 to 31.3.05	7.83	7.50
		1.4.05 to 30.10.05	5.05	5.01

#### **Dual Citizenship**

1182. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has offered to grant Dual Citizenship status to NRIs and people of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the Government so far to avail of this facility and the number of applicants conferred this status;

(c) whether these people face any problem in accepting the offer of the Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH

AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, for Overseas Indians.

(b) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Scheme is expected to be launched soon.

(c) to (e) In view of (a) and (b) above, these do not apply.

[Translation]

#### **Prosecution of Employees by CVC**

1183. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) does not have the right to make any recommendation regarding the prosecution of a State Government Employee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the CVC is adhering to it;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) 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 PACHOURI): (a) to (c) State Government employees are not covered under the jurisdiction of Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

(d) to (f) Accordingly, the Commission does not tender its advice in respect of employees of the State Governments.

[English]

#### National Rural Health Mission

1184. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) throughout the country to improve health care delivery;
- (b) if so, whether people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is fully dependent upon the health care services available to the people in the maintained;
- (c) if so, whether the people of Islands will also be covered by the programmes under the National Rural Health Mission; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, the National Rural Health Mission has been launched on 12.4.2005 for the entire country with special focus in 18 States whose socio-demographic indices are vulnerable and who have poor public health infrastructure. These include the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, M.P., U.P., Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The people of the islands are also covered under the National Rural Health Mission. The Mission seeks to decentralize the planning process and strengthen the Primary Health infrastructure including at the village and block level. The Mission also seeks to bring the services at the CHCs up to the level of the Indian Public Health Standards so that specialized care is available closer to the community.

- (d) Not applicable.

#### Indian Casualties in London Bomb Blasts

1185. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Indian died in the bomb blast that occurred in London on July 7, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government is holding talks with the Government of UK regarding bringing the mortal remains of the deceased to India;
- (d) If so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to take up the issue of compensation to be paid to the next of kin with the UK Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Two people of Indian origin, Ms. Mala Trivedi and Ms. Neetu Jain, have been listed as victims of the bomb blasts in London on July 7, 2005. Neither of these victims had Indian nationality. Our High Commission in London was not contacted to render any assistance.

- (c) to (f) Does not arise.

#### Road Project of Bangalore

1186. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka has submitted a project to the centre worth Rs. 516 crores to enlarge and develop 492 Kilometre roads in Bangalore city;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to clear this project expeditiously; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. However, a letter dated 8.11.2005 has been received from Government of Karnataka for immediate requirement of Rs.513 crore for development of 174 kms of roads in Bangalore.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Alleged Misbehaviour with  
Diplomat's Spouse**

1187. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an industrialist of Bangladesh allegedly detained and misbehaved with the Spouse of an Indian diplomat as reported in The Times of India dated September 18, 2005;

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

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities;

- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) On September 15th 2005, a vehicle of the High Commission of India, Dhaka with diplomatic plates, in which spouse of Acting High Commissioner was traveling was blocked and confined by a group of people on a public road in Dhaka. Several persons, including some armed with automatic assault weapons, thereafter assaulted the Mission's vehicle, used abusive language against the spouse of the Acting High Commissioner and forcibly detained the chauffeur and the vehicle.

(c) The High Commission filed a complaint against the incident with the police. The issue was also taken up with the Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh in New Delhi and the Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka, where our shock and serious concern at the incident was conveyed. The Government of Bangladesh was also urged to take necessary action in the matter.

(d) In a public statement, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry, Government of Bangladesh termed the incident as "unfortunate" and assured that all protection would be given to "foreign diplomats".

(e) Government have directed all personnel posted in Indian missions abroad, especially in sensitive stations, to exercise due care and to remain alert at all times.

[Translation]

**Malnutrition Deaths**

1188. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of children and adults died due to malnutrition during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the number of children affected by malnutrition during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the aid provided to the affected states by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the World Health Organisation has provided any kind of aid in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of aid released by them and the dates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of number of children and adults deaths due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained. However, malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections.

(b) According to National Family Health survey (NFHS-2)(1998-99), 47% children under 3 years of age are undernourished while 18% are severely undernourished. The State-wise details of undernourished children are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The state-wise fund released under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) World Health Organisation (WHO) provides technical and financial support for activities directed towards improving the health and Nutritional status of the people. WHO has allocated US \$ 100,000 from the regular budget under the head "Nutrition" for the current biennium (2004-2005).

**Statement-I***State-wise details of undernourished children*

State	Weight for age	
	Severely undernourished (% below - 3 SD)	Undernourished* (% below - 2 SD)
1	2	3
India	18.0	47.0
North		
Delhi	10.1	34.7
Haryana	10.1	34.6
Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6
Jammu & Kashmir	8.3	34.5
Punjab	8.8	28.7
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6
Central		
Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7
East		
Bihar	25.5	54.4
Orissa	20.7	54.4
West Bengal	16.3	48.7
North-East		
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3
Assam	13.3	36.0
Manipur	5.9	27.5

1	2	3
Meghalaya	11.3	37.9
Mizoram	5.0	27.7
Nagaland	7.4	24.1
Sikkim	4.2	20.6
West		
Goa	4.7	28.6
Gujarat	16.2	45.1
Maharashtra	17.6	49.6
South		
Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7
Karnataka	16.5	43.9
Kerala	4.7	26.9
Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7

\* This figure also includes severely undernourished.

**Statement-II***State-wise position of funds released under ICDS Scheme*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Funds under ICDS (General), World Bank and Udisha		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (upto 9.12.2004)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	14884.25	11135.88	7277.34
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2530.72	1552.73	1050.65
3	Assam	8121.08	4489.45	4355.16
4	Bihar	7833.94	5354.59	10511.47
5	Goa	435.75	420.70	294.52



1	2	3	4	5
6	Gujarat	7055.28	9894.54	9405.58
7	Haryana	4349.41	4446.88	4425.10
8	Himachal Pradesh	2194.40	1603.66	2657.26
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3728.75	2415.88	1965.07
10	Karnataka	10699.29	11341.87	10654.35
11	Kerala	6621.08	9585.50	5714.10
12	Madhya Pradesh	15528.51	16002.77	9573.86
13	Maharashtra	18935.09	19598.87	9398.19
14	Manipur	2360.06	1453.55	1246.90
15	Meghalaya	1181.87	881.52	1369.16
16	Mizoram	1149.44	852.63	673.54
17	Nagaland	2416.47	1509.28	1087.50
18	Orissa	8726.42	11523.81	10666.93
19	Punjab	3777.09	4943.21	3904.27
20	Rajasthan	11625.54	11727.65	11853.17
21	Sikkim	280.97	173.69	289.14
22	Tamil Nadu	13459.18	10855.27	14397.55
23	Tripura	1403.95	1822.82	1109.46
24	Uttar Pradesh	13659.04	19095.23	19499.37
25	West Bengal	16629.63	15873.69	8631.59
26	Chhattisgarh	7294.93	6581.19	4327.21
27	Jharkhand	947.15	1862.83	4319.66
28	Uttaranchal	6495.63	3081.25	2398.77
<b>Union Territories</b>				
29	Delhi	1014.18	1172.42	815.74
30	Pondicherry	241.05	205.54	175.78

1	2	3	4	5
31	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	164.32	193.18	157.52
32	Chandigarh	121.50	142.54	121.49
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	42.00	48.50	45.13
34	Daman & Diu	43.24	41.41	38.98
35	Lakshadweep	30.83	39.64	25.15
<b>Total</b>		<b>195982.03</b>	<b>191924.17</b>	<b>164436.66</b>

[English]

**Rising Level of Congestion**

1189. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the quality of cellular mobile phone provided by the various operators is being affected throughout the country due to rising level of congestion as reported in The Hindu dated October 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued a Quality of Service (QoS) Regulation in July 2000 and subsequently modified in July 2005 so as to benchmark various QoS parameters including point of Interconnection congestion for Basic and Cellular Mobile Services. TRAI has been monitoring the performance of Cellular Mobile Operators against the benchmarks given for the various parameters in the above Regulation through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports.

Due to tremendous growth in wireless telephones, problems of congestion have been noticed on account of inadequate infrastructure commensurate with the growth; and non-availability of adequate number of inter-operator junctions. This increase in congestion has resulted in blocking of calls, poor voice quality, poor connectivity etc.

TRAI is monitoring the POI congestion of cellular mobile operators on a monthly basis. TRAI has also held several meetings with the senior management of service providers for addressing deficiencies in achieving QoS benchmarks.

Network expansion commensurate with the growth in number of subscriber is a continuous process. The telecom operators are taking necessary steps to meet the Quality of Service benchmarks prescribed by TRAI.

*[Translation]*

#### **Health Facilities to Haj Yatris**

1190. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to send a team of medical specialists to provide health care facilities to Indian Haj Yatris;

(b) if so, the norms fixed for sending such a team of specialists and the total number of doctors and pharmacists fixed for such teams; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate facilities to Yatris during 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The number of doctors and paramedical staff (including pharmacists) being deputed for Haj 2006 is 143 and 146 respectively. The selection of doctors and paramedical staff is made keeping in view the regional and linguistic requirements of Haj pilgrims. The eligibility criteria for selection is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The Indian Medical Mission in Saudi Arabia is adequately staffed with doctors and paramedical personnel. Besides the main hospital in Mecca and main dispensary in Medina, 11 branch dispensaries in Makkah, 4 branch dispensaries in Madina, and dispensaries at the airport and Mina region are being set up.

#### **Statement**

#### **Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions for Temporary Deputation to Consulate General of India, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for Haj 2006**

#### **Medical and Paramedical Personnel**

##### **A. Eligibility Conditions:**

- For Doctors: the applicant should be presently serving in a Central/State Government Hospital or dispensary and should have five years' experience as Medical Officer (M.B.B.S.). However, in case the number of applicants with five years experience is not sufficient, applicants with two years experience may also be considered.
- Only Allopathic Doctors: General Practitioners, Specialists such as Physicians, Surgeons, Orthopedics, Gynaecologists, ENT Surgeon, TB & Chest, Psychiatrist, Pathologists, Ophthalmologists, Pediatricians, Dentist, Dermatologists and Cardiologists are also eligible.
- For Paramedics: the applicant should be in possession of Degree/Diploma in Nursing/ECG/Lab. Technician. Minimum five year's service is essential.
- Pharmacists should be in possession of B.Pharm Degree/Diploma.
- The applicant should not be more than 50 years of age as on 1.1.2006.
- The applicant must be physically fit and able to withstand the harsh climate and living conditions and the long duty hours in Saudi Arabia.
- The applicant should hold a permanent post in his/her cadre.
- The applicant who have been deputed thrice or more in the past, are not eligible.

This condition does not apply to female Doctors and female Pharmacists.

##### **B. Desirable Qualifications:**

- Due weightage will be given to applicants having knowledge of regional languages.
- Professors, Directors of Hospitals and persons hold-

ing senior positions, need not apply. Pathologists, Anesthetists, Psychiatrists, Microbiologists also need not apply.

N.B. All Applications should be sent through proper channel. Applications sent directly will be rejected.

[English]

### Opening of Post Offices in West Bengal

1191. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposals under consideration to open new post offices in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal during the current financial year;

(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) There is no justified proposal pending for opening of post office in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal.

Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. The norms for opening of new post offices are given in enclosed Statement-I.

Three proposals for opening of new post offices in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal were received during the current financial year. On examination, all the three proposals were not found justified on Departmental norms. The details of these proposals are given in enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Norms for Opening Post Offices*

1. Norms for opening extra Departmental Branch Post Offices.

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

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

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

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

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

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

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

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

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

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

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

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

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

(b) In Urban Areas:

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

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20

lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

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

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

**Statement-II**

*The details of proposals received for opening of new post offices in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal during the current financial year (year 2005-06)*

Sl. No.	Details of Proposals	Norms on which proposal is not justified
1.	Opening of new Departmental Sub Post Office at ward No.23 of Bidhannagar in District North 24 Parganas.	The distance of proposed Departmental Sub-Post Office from the nearest existing post office is ½ KM. As such, the opening of proposed post office is not justified on distance norm.
2.	Opening of new Departmental Sub Post Office at Ambikapur under the delivery jurisdiction of Natagarh Departmental Sub Post Office in North 24 Parganas.	The distance of proposed Departmental Sub Post Office from the nearest existing post office is 1 Km. As such, the opening of proposed post office is not justified on distance norm.
3.	Opening of an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Village purba Hatgacha in District North 24 Parganas.	The distance of proposed Extra Departmental Branch Post Office from the nearest existing post office is 2.5 Kms and percentage of income to the cost of proposed post office is 27.11%. As such, opening of proposed office is not justified on distance and income norms.

[Translation]

**Fire In Coal Mines**

1192. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire in several coal mines of Dhanbad (Jharkhand) has not been put off since years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such mines in the country;

(d) the estimated quantum of coal getting burnt into ashes per year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As reported by coal India Limited, prior to nationalization there were 70 mine fires in Jharia coalfield. As a result of the efforts made by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) 10 fires have been extinguished and spreading of number of fires have been controlled. At present, there are 40 mines which are affected by fires in Jharia coalfield (Dhanbad) under the jurisdiction of Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(c) and (d) Presently there are no other mines of Coal India Ltd. having active fire except those mentioned in reply to parts (a) & (b) above. There have been cases of mine fires in past in some of the mines having fiery seams which have been controlled and sealed off. It is not possible

to make an yearly assessment of coal getting destroyed by fires. However, as per study conducted by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited, reserves of coal lost due to fire is estimated at around 37 million tonnes in Jharia Coalfield.

(e) The following steps have been taken to control/extinguish fire in coal mines:

- i) Sand flushing into active fire zone from surface to underground through boreholes.
- ii) Surface blanketing to prevent breathing in of air to the fire area.
- iii) Inert gas flushing from surface through boreholes to extinguish fire.
- iv) Quenching of spot fire and mining out the quenched coal.
- v) Sealing of the part of the mine under fire by construction of fire stoppings/isolation stoppings.
- vi) Application of fire resistant sealant in and around the isolation stoppings/fire stoppings.
- vii) Regular monitoring with the help of Co-detectors, toximeter, air sampling and analysis of the same at colliery level.
- viii) Trench cutting by mechanized means to excavate fire and to prevent spread of the same.
- ix) Intentional flooding by water to quench the fire in some mines.

Apart from above actions, 16 schemes for dealing with fires, control of subsidence and reclamation of land/rehabilitation in BCCL have been sanctioned and funded by the Government. Out of these, 9 schemes have been

completed. A Master Plan has also been prepared to deal with fires and control of subsidence in Jharia coalfield as a long term measure.

[English]

#### Nehru Yuva Kendras in Uttar Pradesh

1193. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) in Uttar Pradesh and areas covered by these Kendras, location-wise;

(b) the amount spent on these Kendras during each of the last three years and the current year, Kendras-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up new NYKs in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) in Uttar Pradesh and areas covered by Kendras, location-wise and the amount spent on these Kendras during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The proposal for rationalization and expansion of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan was not agreed to at the stage of inter-ministerial consultations. Final decision within a specified time frame cannot be indicated.

#### Statement

*Details of Nehru Yuva Kendras, location-wise and amount spent on these Kendras during the last three years and the current year*

Sl. No.	Location of NYK	Area Covered	Amount spent in Rupees			
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (31 Oct., '05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Agra	Whole district	787164	1022265	961558	353555

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	Aligarh	Whole district	1058290	980475	1191982	319987
3	Allahabad	Whole district	177191	1948806	794111	295128
4	Azamgarh	Whole district	1069721	3687816	1322128	332585
5	Badaun	Whole district	817057	713218	1016573	321904
6	Baharich	Whole district	1089438	806976	1185940	374817
7	Ballia	Whole district	697441	903504	1003073	323322
8	Banda	Whole district	2013681	640702	768218	335217
9	Barabanki	Whole district	149839	1583135	1075414	338508
10	Bareilly	Whole district	1938310	1097475	1301842	356898
11	Basti	Whole district	718372	595689	851501	290559
12	Bijnor	Whole district	951750	745343	886280	262525
13	Bulandsahar	Whole district	876507	1087147	1032108	325607
14	Amethi	Whole district	2097226	768771	986819	290867
15	Deoria	Whole district	1262802	955885	1162930	365810
16	Etah	Whole district	1489271	1015711	957971	362606
17	Etawah	Whole district	791737	1093819	745735	311753
18	Faizabad	Whole district	1278979	976643	912079	302187
19	Farukhabad	Whole district	601811	441451	716519	323500
20	Fatehpur	Whole district	970245	614995	853216	293321
21	Ferozabad	Whole district	836788	738057	951982	309778
22	Ghaziabad	Whole district	1137522	985718	1014222	331048
23	Ghazipur	Whole district	1194830	2096660	1146232	287353
24	Gonda	Whole district	4927193	5241952	937050	454203
25	Gorakhpur	Whole district	779341	1542342	720942	304261
26	Hamirpur	Whole district	3932734	3921564	3909979	333146
27	Hardoi	Whole district	907361	651830	958987	366235
28	Jalaun	Whole district	1562404	751199	625963	334282
29	Jaunpur	Whole district	810212	802949	1128920	523446

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Jhansi	Whole district	202776	1072880	1047959	320146
31	Kanpur (Dehat)	Whole district	0	511424	714681	326735
32	Kanpur (Nagar)	Whole district	2149361	1233778	804708	332650
33	Lakhimpur Kheri	Whole district	723323	466598	717976	330464
34	Lalitpur	Whole district	2929778	1102086	2017396	378818
35	Lucknow	Whole district	17472825	15114061	1613503	279812
36	Maharjganj	Whole district	614134	793388	286400	336093
37	Mainpuri	Whole district	760088	587461	875748	313093
38	Mathura	Whole district	3056481	1681756	1567677	336974
39	Mau	Whole district	933597	609484	862555	265508
40	Meerut	Whole district	2011029	544511	741604	318108
41	Mirzapur	Whole district	860772	1098638	735425	308665
42	Moradabad	Whole district	758711	642402	858477	316739
43	Muzaffar Nagar	Whole district	912859	774831	1130916	340184
44	Partapgarh	Whole district	1484724	1612548	544176	361526
45	Pilibhit	Whole district	2076471	721561	493893	277176
46	Rai Bareilly	Whole district	1210938	799015	473899	327467
47	Rampur	Whole district	745013	770801	372430	26031---
48	Saharanpur	Whole district	1075637	1059100	765799	386789
49	Shahjahanpur	Whole district	1199841	1379695	448293	303859
50	Siddharth Nagar	Whole district	1818080	1225401	1004358	344425
51	Sitapur	Whole district	996468	1874494	459122	273362
52	Sonebhadra	Whole district	1195266	291849	573540	274490
53	Sultanpur	Whole district	1930159	967023	550462	335845
54	Unnao	Whole district	5048677	3726567	451340	313225
55	Varanasi	Whole district	814036	1375209	546413	347570

**Task Force for Generation of  
Employment Opportunities**

1194. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up a task force to suggest ways to generate new employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employment opportunities in the country have come down considerably over the years; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to generate new employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Task Force on Employment Opportunities under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, which submitted its Report in June, 2001.

(c) and (d) The employment opportunities increased from 315.84 million in 1993-94 to 336.75 million in 1999-2000, as per the previous two quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey conducted in 1993-94 (50th round) and 1999-2000 (55th round).

**Digitization of Information**

1195. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a policy to digitize all available knowledge and information of social, economic, political, judicial and cultural nature;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the digitized information would be freely available to all on the internet;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether defence and other sensitive information relating to diplomatic relations and details of science, defence and nuclear agreements signed with other countries would also be available on the internet;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to formulate any comprehensive policy in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (h) No, Sir. However, National Informatics Centre (NIC), under Department of Information Technology (DIT), provides technical support for digitizing the following:

(i) Supreme Court and High Court judgments, orders and other records

(ii) Rajya Sabha verbatim debate

(iii) Land development records

(iv) Passport applications

(v) Maps related to watershed, soil, etc.

(vi) Forest cover, environmental parameters

(vii) Cultural heritage, manuscripts

Further National Digital Library cell has been created by DIT which has the mandates for setting up of National Digital Libraries in the country.

An official portal of the Indian Government has been launched viz India.gov.in. which provides single window access to the information and services being provided by the Indian Government for the citizens and other stakeholders.

**Approval of NER Projects**

1196. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Region projects require prior approval of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of the projects proposed to be taken up are pending for approval of the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Projects in the North Eastern Region are taken up under both the Central and State Plans by the respective ministries and state governments as per the laid down procedure. Projects under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and NEC under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) are sanctioned by the Ministry as per the laid down guidelines and priorities fixed by the state government.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, there are five projects, namely (1) System improvement scheme (Upgradation/improvement/ construction of power transmission and distribution lines & substations); (2) Construction of Airport for operation of 50 Seater Aircraft at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh; (3) Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Manipur (Phase-II) project; (4) Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project (2x50 MW), Assam; (5) Controlling of Jiajhal River in Dhemaji District, (Phase-I project), Assam falling under Power, Transport & Communication, Water Resources and Health sectors are at various stages of examination for 'In principle' clearance. Final clearance would depend on technical suitability of the projects, likely availability of funds, etc.

#### **CBI Cases against Central Government Officers**

1197. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the officers belonging to IAS, IPS, IRS, IES (Indian Engineering Service), Indian Accounts Service, Indian Railway Service etc. booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in corruption cases during 2004 and the current year till date;

(b) The details of property, cash, ornaments etc. seized from them officer-wise, and the position held by each of them at that time;

(c) the number of officers arrested and the reasons for others being let off;

(d) whether these tainted officers are still manning sensitive posts; and

(e) if so, the stringent measures being taken by the Government to root out corruption at high places?

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 PACHOURI): (a) The details about the service of a particular officer against whom case has been registered by the CBI or who has been charged for an offence is not necessarily maintained by the CBI. However, a statement giving details of officers belonging to IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS available with CBI is enclosed.

(b) Searches are a part of investigation and it is not necessary to conduct searches in all cases. Even if searches are made, it will not be proper to disclose the details while the case is under investigation, as disclosure may affect the investigation adversely.

(c) Arrest is a part of investigation and depends upon the facts and circumstances of the particular case and it is not necessary to arrest each and every officer against whom case is registered or who is charged in a trial court. The details of officers arrested are also indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) Transfer of an officer depends of the facts and circumstances of a case against him.

(e) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in Government offices, including formulation, monitoring and effective implementation of anti-corruption policy consisting of a three pronged strategy of preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection, and deterrent punitive actions.

#### **Statement**

*Details of corruption cases registered against IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS and C&CES officers during 2004 and 2005*

<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of officers booked by the CBI in corruption cases during 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.10.2005)</b>	<b>Number of officers arrested</b>
IAS	10	1
IPS	7	4
IFS	2	0
IRS	79	10
C&CES	19	5

### Understaffing in Indian Missions

1198. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Missions abroad are understaffed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it leads to delay in processing visa requests of prospective foreign tourists to India; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) There has been an exponential increase in the requirements for consular services relating to passport and visas. Increase in staff strength has not kept pace with this sharp increase in workload due to austerity measures including a ban on creation of new posts and optimization of direct recruitment. However, all Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to ensure that there is no delay in processing the visa requests of prospective foreign tourists to India. Computerization of consular services has also been undertaken in several Missions/Posts abroad to improve efficiency. Further, the Staff Inspection Unit has recently carried out a study and recommended additional posts in consular services in Missions/Posts abroad.

### Deputation for Haj Duty

1199. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government employees are sent on deputation for the service of Haj Pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the rules prescribed for their selection;
- (c) the list of employees sent on deputation during the last three years from the State of Gujarat;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to display the list of selected candidates by putting the same on Internet; and
- (e) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to implement the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The existing practice of informing the selected candidates of their selection directly and through their parent Department has been working satisfactorily.

### Statement

#### *Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions for Temporary Deputation to Consulate General of India, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for Haj 2006*

#### Administrative Personnel

##### A. Eligibility Conditions:

- \* Only Central & State Government employees are eligible. Persons working in Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations, autonomous Bodies, Subordinate offices, Colleges/Universities (except Central Universities)/Aided Schools etc. are ineligible and need not apply.
- \* For Assistant Haj Officer, the applicant should be Gazetted officer—serving in the grade of Section Officer of Central Government or equivalent in the pay scale of 6,500-200-10,500. All grade-II gazetted officers recently getting pay scale of Rs.8000- 13,500 can also apply. (Under Secretaries & above are not eligible for selection as AHOs and as such need not apply).
- \* For Haj Assistant, the applicant should be holding a non-Gazetted post in the pay scale of Rs.5,500-175-9,000 of Central Government.
- \* The applicant should not be less than 35 years and more than 50 years of age as on 1.1.2006.
- \* The applicant should be medically fit and produce a Certificate to this effect from a Government Hospital.
- \* The applicant should be holding permanent post in his grade.
- \* The applicants who have already performed Haj duty thrice or more are not eligible.
- \* All those who have done deputation in the previous year can apply again only after a gap of one Haj year.
- \* Applications of officers in the higher grade than prescribed shall not be entertained.
- \* Persons having technical post/category need not apply.

**B. Desirable Qualifications:**

- \* Due weightage will be given to applicants having knowledge of Arabic and regional languages.
- \* Weightage will be given to the applicants having experience in public relations & accounts.
- \* Preference will be given to applicants having knowledge of data Entry and Computer Programming.

**Medical and Paramedical Personnel****A. Eligibility Conditions:**

- \* For Doctors: the applicant should be presently serving in a Central/State Government Hospital or dispensary and should have five years' experience as Medical Officer (M.B.B.S.). However, in case the number of applicants with five years experience is not sufficient, applicants with two years experience may also be considered.
- \* Only Allopathic Doctors: General Practitioners, Specialists such as Physicians, Surgeons, Orthopedics, Gynaecologists, ENT Surgeon, TB& Chest, Psychiatrist, Pathologists, Ophthalmologists, Pediatricians, Dentist, Dermatologists and Cardiologists are also eligible.
- \* For Paramedics: the applicant should be in possession of Degree/Diploma in Nursing/ECG/Lab. Technician. Minimum five year's service is essential.

ssion of Degree/Diploma in Nursing/ECG/Lab. Technician. Minimum five year's service is essential.

- \* Pharmacists should be in possession of B.Pharm Degree/Diploma.
- \* The applicant should not be more than 50 years of age as on 1.1.2006.
- \* The applicant must be physically fit and able to withstand the harsh climate and living conditions and the long duty hours in Saudi Arabia.
- \* The applicant should hold a Permanent post in his/her cadre.
- \* The applicant who have been deputed thrice or more in the past, are not eligible.

This condition does not apply to female Doctors and female Pharmacists.

**B. Desirable Qualifications:**

- \* Due weightage will be given to applicants having knowledge of regional languages.
- \* Professors, Directors of Hospitals and persons holding senior positions, need not apply. Pathologists, Anesthetists, Psychiatrists, Microbiologists also need not apply.

N.B. All Applications should be sent through proper channel. Applications sent directly will be rejected.

*Government Employees sent on deputation to Saudi Arabia during the last three years from the State of Gujarat for the service of Haj Pilgrims*

**Haj - 2003**

Sl. No.	Name of the Assistant Haj Officer	Sl. No.	Name of Haj Assistant
1	Shri Ilyas Ahmed M. Quraishi	1	Shri Md. Yusuf Habib Sab Pyare
2	Shri Husseni Mohmadsalim	2	Shri Siraj Suleman Bhai Maivat
		3	Shri Jumma Noormohmad Parmar
		4	Shri Tailor Abdulvahid Abdulmjd
Sl. No.	Name of Doctors	Sl. No.	Name of Doctors
1	Dr. Sherbanu A. Pathan	4	Dr. Imtiyazahmad G. Vohra
2	Dr. K. Mohd Iqbal	5	Dr. Memon Rahim Bhai
3	Dr. Abidhusen A. Mansury		

**Haj - 2004**

Sl. No.	Name of the Assistant Haj Officer	Sl.No.	Name of Haj Assistant
1	Shri Ilyas Ahmed M. Quraishi	1	Shri Nasir Makwana
		2	Shri Saiyed Mazarhusen Sharafathusen
		3	Shri M. A. Sheikh
		4	Shri Shaukat Hussain Kazi
		5	Shri Mansuri Valibhai
		6	Ibrahim Abdullatif Babudi
		7	Shri Jumma Parmar

Sl.No.	Name of Doctors	Sl. No.	Name of Paramedical Staffs
1	Dr. Mohmedhsan Dawood Khatri	1	Shri Yusuf Bhai Mansuri
2	Dr. Qureshi Khalid Amin	2	Shri Musiufabhai Mansuri
3	Dr. Khatri J. Abdul Mazid	3	Shri Mansuri Riyaz Ahmed
4	Dr. Abdul Sayeed Ansari	4	Smt. Sartaj Sultana Mirza
5	Dr. Sama Mahamadsidique	5	Smt. Rajpura Fatma Ben I. Bhai
6	Dr. Ilias Ibrahim Qureshi	6	Smt. Mumtaz Banu Uzala
7	Dr. Nizamuddin Khan	7	Smt Sabnam K. Sandhi
8	Dr. Tariq Yasin Bloch	8	Smt. Shirinben Gulamnabi Vohora
9	Dr. Hingora Husen	9	Smt. Jebunnisha Ibrahimbhai Dudhwala
10	Dr. Memon Rahim Bhai I. Bara		
11	Dr. Pathan Sherbanu Azamkhan		

**Haj - 2005**

Sl. No.	Name of the Assistant Haj Officer	Sl.No.	Name of Haj Assistant
1	Shri Ilyas Ahmad M Quraishi	1	Shri Goriya Gulam Rasul A. Samad
		2	Shri Ibrahim Abdullatif Babudi
		3	Shri Sk. Naimuddin Jan Mohamed
		4	Shri Hamidhusain R. Farooqui

  

Sl.No.	Name of Doctors	Sl.No.	Name of Paramedical Staffs
1	2	1	2
1	Dr. Salim	1	Mrs. Pathan Jamila Ibrahim Khan
2	Dr. Shabbirali Hasambhai	2	Mr. Mansuri Mustufa Ujmanbhai

1	2	1	2
3	Dr. Harun Bhaya	3	Mr. Shaikh Mohamed Firoz A. Gani
4	Dr. Qureshi Khalid Amin	4	Mr. Menom Fajalmohmad Gulamnabi
5	Dr. Hingora Husen	5	Mr. Momin Measmtammar
6	Dr. Yusuf Mohamed Bhai Master		
7	Dr. Ansari Abdul Sayeed		
8	Dr. Memon Rahim Bhai Ibrahim Bhai		
9	Dr. (Mrs.) Munira Gulam A. Vohra		
10	DR. (Mrs.) Sherbanu Azam Khan Pathan		

### **Conversion of Small Telephone Exchanges Into C-Dot Exchange**

1200. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace small telephone exchanges with C-Dot Exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise, alongwith the time fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has made any cost benefit analysis in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has replaced all the small Telephone Exchanges with C-DOT exchanges. Further, no small telephone exchange of C-DOT type are installed in MTNL, Delhi or Mumbai.

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

### **Investment in Telecom Sector**

1201. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the gross investment made so far by all the telecom operator in Private and Government Sectors; and

(b) the operator-wise break-up alongwith investment avenues in wireline phones, mobile phones, national long-distance and international long distance infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information is not being centrally maintained. The total investment in the telecom sector upto March 2005 is estimated to be about Rs 2,07,000 crore. All the sub-sectors of telecom have been opened up for private sector participation providing investment avenues.

### **Setting up of Nursing Schools**

1202. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to set up Nursing Schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; 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) There is no proposal for setting up of Nursing Schools in the country. However a new scheme for upgrading the Schools of Nursing into College of Nursing has been introduced in the Xth plan period. Under the scheme a sum of Rs. 1.50 crores is given to the State Governments towards non-recurring assistance. So far sanction has been issued to 10 institutions in the states of

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland and Mizoram.

#### **Development of Backward Districts**

1203. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had approved a special package for development of some districts of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh under the 'Backward District Initiative Programme';

(b) if so, the districts identified for the purpose and the criteria for the selection;

(c) the central assistance provided for the purpose to each of the districts;

(d) the extent to which the amounts have been utilised;

(e) whether the Government has launched any time-bound programme for the development of the identified backward districts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana covers 147 districts including 32 districts affected by left wing extremism. The identification of backward districts within a State was made on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each, namely, (i) value of output per agricultural worker; (ii) agriculture wage rate; and (iii) percentage of SC/ST population of the districts. The list of districts of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh is in the statement enclosed.

(c) As per the scheme, Rs. 45 crore is to be provided for each district covered under the scheme over a period of three years. The Central Assistance so far provided to each district of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Government of Gujarat has reported an

expenditure of Rs. 15.52 crore up to September, 2005 and the Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported an expenditure of Rs. 158.43 crore up to October, 2005 under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(e) and (f) The Government has announced the establishment of the Backward Regions Grant Fund from the current financial year 2005-06. The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), envisaged to end in 2006-07, will now be wound up with suitable transition arrangements to protect every district now covered under RSVY.

#### **Statement**

*List of districts of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and Central Assistance so far released to each of the districts covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.*

(Rs. in crore)	
Name of the State/ District	Total amount so far released
1	2
Gujarat	37.50
Dangs	22.50
Dahod	7.50
Panchmahals	7.50
Uttar Pradesh	322.50
Sitapur	22.50
Unnao	15.00
Raebareli	15.00
Sonbhadra	22.50
Hardoi	15.00
Barabanki	22.50
Fatehpur	22.50
Banda	22.50
Chitrakoot	15.00
Mirzapur	15.00

1	2
Gorakhpur	7.50
Azamgarh	7.50
Kushinagar	15.00
Jaunpur	7.50
Chandauli	15.00
Kaushambi	15.00
Hamirpur	15.00
Mahoba	15.00
Lalitpur	15.00
Pratapgarh	7.50
Jalaun	15.00

**Financial Assistance for Health and  
Family Welfare Projects**

1204. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for financial assistance for various Health and Family Welfare Project and modernization of Hospitals in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Expansion of Delhi Metro**

1205. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought assistance from foreign countries for the expansion of Metro in Delhi;

(b) if so, the countries from which assistance has been sought;

(c) the countries which have offered help for the expansion of Metro in Delhi and elsewhere in the country; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Assistance of the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) is being sought for the Phase II of the metro in Delhi and the Bangalore Metro Project. The JBIC is appraising both the proposals.

**Indo-US Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance**

1206. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters came into force with both the countries formally signing the instruments of ratification on October 4, 2005;

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

(c) the details of benefits of signing the said treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Protocol of the Exchange of the Instruments of Ratification was signed at New Delhi on October 3, 2005. The MLAT between the two countries came into force from the said date.

(b) and (c) The Treaty will improve the effectiveness of the law enforcement authorities of both India and USA in the investigation, prosecution, prevention and suppression of crime, including those relating to terrorism, narcotic trafficking, economic and organized crime.

**National Digital Library**

1207. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to set up a National Digital Library; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A cell under the name "National Digital Libraries Cell" has been created in the Department of Information Technology (DIT). The mandate of the cell is:

- Setting up National Digital Libraries
- Lining DIT's own Archives and Library
- Resources in printed format as well as museum artifacts i.e. non-printed document format resources (murals, paintings, sculptures) etc. through digital technology in order to provide universal access with links to other digital libraries.

#### **Proposed Resolution in the US Congress**

1208. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a resolution proposed to be tabled in the U.S. Congress in November this year is scheduled to highlight the alleged atrocities committed on the Dalits and Tribals in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) At present there is no resolution on the table of US Congress to highlight the alleged atrocities committed on the Dalits and Tribals in India. Records at the moment also do not indicate any proposal regarding the tabling of such a resolution in the US Congress in November 2005.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of Task Force on Global Strategic Development**

1209. SHRI RAJNARYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to constitute a Task Force for the purpose of Global Strategic Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features and objectives behind the proposed constitution of the said Task Force; and

(d) the details of the selection procedure and mode of functioning of the above Task force and the time by which this task force is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Government has already setup "Task Force on Global Strategic Developments."

(b) The Task Force was setup on 28 October 2005 with 7 members, and 2 more members were inducted on 18 November 2005. The composition of this task force is as follows:

1.	Shri K. Subrahmanyam	Chairman
2.	Prof. Amitabh Mattoo	Member
3.	Shri Arvind Virmani	Member
4.	Prof. M.S. Ananth	Member
5.	Prof. P. Rama Rao	Member
6.	Shri R. K. Pachauri	Member
7.	Shri Tarun Das	Member
8.	Air Marshal (Retd.) Vinod Patney	Member
9.	Cmde Uday Bhaskar	Member - Secretary

(c) The task force comprises experts from diverse fields and has been constituted to examine various facets of the evolving global strategic developments and their implications for India.

(d) The constitution of the task force has been approved by Prime Minister. The tenure of the members is for a period of 6 months from the date of their first meeting or for such extended period as the government may determine. The task force is serviced by the National Security Council Secretariat.



**Appointment of SC/ST/OBC Commissioners  
Ambassadors in Indian Missions**

1210. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise details of High Commissioners/Ambassadors including officers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs appointed in various countries during the last three years till date;

(b) the prescribed norms for selection of High Commissioners/Ambassadors;

(c) the number of I.F.S. officers working in the Ministry including the officers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs as on date; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for appointing the officers belonging to the above categories in proportion to their number in Indian missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Appointment of 111 Ambassadors/High Commissioners to the following countries have been made by the Government during the last three years:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Annenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia.

Out of the above, a total of 16 Ambassadors/High Commissioners belong to SC and ST categories, which includes 10 officers appointed to Algeria, Belarus, Finland,

Oman, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Brunei Darussalam, and Kenya belonging to SC category and 6 Ambassadors/High Commissioners appointed to North Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Panama, Mozambique and Zambia belonging to ST category. Recruitment of officers on the basis of OBC category status commenced from the year 1994 and consequently officers of OBC category have as yet not attained the requisite seniority for being appointed as Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

(b) Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. These appointments are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, inter alia, their seniority, background, relevant experience and an overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

(c) As on date, the total number of IFS officers in the Ministry is 611, out of which number of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC are 86, 48 and 48 respectively.

(d) While the percentages prescribed for reservation in SC, ST and OBC categories are strictly followed at the recruitment stage, there is no policy of reservation in postings in Missions abroad, including at the level of Ambassadors/High Commissioners. However, conscious efforts are made towards appointment of officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories who have the requisite background, experience and seniority, as Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

*[English]*

**Combating Non-Communicable Diseases**

1211. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-communicable diseases are a growing problem in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has conducted any study on non-communicable diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has drawn up any plan to tackle non-communicable diseases; 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) Yes Sir, there is a growing problem of non-communicable diseases in the country. Chronic diseases are estimated to account for 53% of all deaths and 44% of disability adjusted life years (DALYs). No systemic study has been done in India to find out exact figures. Indian Council of Medical Research has been addressing various issues relating to NCDs, including its prevention and control through its research activities and making efforts towards diversification of its activities to address to identify the factors contributing to the burden of non-communicable diseases.

[Translation]

#### Towers Over Government/Private Buildings

1212. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame any policy relating to installation of towers atop Government and private buildings;

(b) whether these towers are a health hazard for the people living in nearby areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; 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 local bodies in various States and Union Territories have issued guidelines regarding installation of towers on buildings.

(b) to (d) There is no authentic information regarding health hazard from communication towers for the people living in nearby areas.

#### Extension of Service of Officials under CBI Scanner

1213. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGÉ PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether extension of service beyond the age of superannuation can be given to a person under CBI scanner;

(b) if so, the details of rules laid down by the Government and the circular issued by the Prime Minister's Office in this regard;

(c) whether various Ministries/Departments have extended the services of several high ranking officials in violation of these rules and circular;

(d) if so, the number of such officials in the Ministry of Textile alongwith their names whose services have been extended by the Ministry during the last one year till date; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Rule 56(d) of Fundamental Rules provides for grant of extension beyond the age of superannuation to certain categories of Government servants. As per existing Government instructions, officers who do not have good reputation for integrity and honesty should not be considered for grant of extension in service. These instructions also provide that all proposals for extension in service beyond the age of superannuation should be referred to the Department of Personnel & Training.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Improving State of Affairs in Government Hospitals

1214. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court in September, 2005 has issued any order/direction to the medical superintendents of all the hospitals in Delhi including AIIMS and Safdarjung and the Union Health Secretary to improve the state of affairs in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Medical Superintendent especially that of Safdarjung Hospital have taken steps to implement the order/direction of the High Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action being taken especially against the Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital for non-compliance of the said order/direction of the court.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide its order dated 22.9.2005 directed as under:-

- (i) To constitute a Committee of experts including representatives from GNCT of Delhi, Delhi Medical Association to survey the prevailing conditions in the Government Hospitals, indicate the reasons for sorry state of affairs and to suggest remedial measures and their mode of implementation in a time bound manner.
- (ii) To constitute Redressal committees at the state and central level to receive grievances from the patients/public, examine them and suggest redressal of these to the concerned functionaries/hospital/institutes who will take necessary steps for redressal of the same.
- (iii) All government hospitals under state and central govt. control including the Director, AIIMS to constitute Grievances Cell in their respective hospitals/institutions for receiving complaints/grievances.
- (iv) To publicize the constitution of Redressal Committees so set up and its location and the procedure/mechanism to receive the complaints and the grievances.
- (v) The Director, AIIMS to set up a similar committee and publicize its constitution, timings and location.
- (vi) All Medical Superintendents of Govt. Hospitals and Director, AIIMS to stop public entry to the hospital wards forthwith, except for one attendant per patient.
- (vii) To take steps to improve the sanitary conditions and change their dirty linen in the ICUs, Wards whenever required and to take immediate steps to stop entry of patients' attendants in the ICUs of these hospitals.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Medical Superintendents of various hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital have complied with the orders of Delhi High Court. In particular, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital has taken the following steps:-

- (i) A Public Grievance cell is already operational in the Safdarjung Hospital.
- (ii) Steps have been taken to ensure that entry of the attendants is restricted by issuing Attendant Pass at the time of admission of patient itself.
- (iii) Sanitary conditions have been improved by deployment of Sulabh International workers along with regular safai karamcharies.
- (iv) Upkeep of the linens in the wards/ICUs & other areas is being done on a regular basis.
- (e) Not applicable.

[English]

#### Medical Seats for Tsunami Hit States

1215. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has earmarked medical seats for the students from the Tsunami hit States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of student of Andaman and Nicobar Islands got admission in different States under this quota; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) During 2005-06, the Government as a one time measure decided to earmark four MBBS seats for Tsunami victims from the Central Pool for the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, A&N Islands and Pondicherry. On the basis of response received, the number was increased to six MBBS seats. On the scrutiny of applications, three seats were allocated to Tamil Nadu, two to A&N Islands and one to Kerala. In respect of A&N Islands, these two seats were in addition to their earlier increase of seats from 17 to 20 MBBS under Central Pool of allocation.

(c) and (d) Out of two seats allocated to A&N Islands, one candidate was directed to join at Medical College, Kozhikode (Kerala) and the other at Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Chhattisgarh.

**Breast Related Diseases**

1216. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any awareness programme for promotion of breast feeding is on to check the rising cases of breast related diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to discourage baby foods; 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) Under the RCH programme, early initiation and exclusive Breast feeding is being promoted as an important strategy for improving the health of the newborn child & infants. Studies have shown that the breast-feeding also benefits women. Women who breast-fed their children have much less chance of getting breast cancer.

Government of India has adopted a multimedia strategy to promote awareness of benefits of breast-feeding in the country. The strategy incorporates audio visual, print and interpersonal tools.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare regularly telecasts/broadcasts the video and Audio spots through National Channel of Doordarshan, Private Satellite Channels and All India Radio to spread the message of Breast-feeding. Print material like posters, leaflets on breast-feeding have been printed and released to States for distribution to the public. The subject is also covered in the quarterly newsletter NRHM news and "Hamara Ghar" and the Department Calendar. The services of Directorate of Field Publicity and Song & Drama Division of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are also being utilized to spread the message through interpersonal communication by organizing cultural shows, exhibitions, film shows, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have enacted Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 and further amended it in 2003. The objective of this act is to protect breast-feeding from the effects of commercial promotion of breast milk substitutes and thereby prevent malnutrition and deaths in infants and young children.

**Underground Coal Gasification**

1217. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CIL and the ONGC have entered into a MoU for active association in underground coal gasification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment of quantum of gas to be provided through underground coal mines has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is working on any scheme in collaboration with any other foreign or indigenous company for conversion of coal into oil or gas;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith expenditure likely to be incurred in the process;

(g) whether any foreign technology is likely to be borrowed for the purpose; and

(h) 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 NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have entered into a MoU towards making a Joint Venture with equal partnership on 50:50 basis for a pilot project for underground coal gasification (UCG). The site for the Pilot Project is yet to be decided.

(c) and (d) The Joint Venture will make a pilot project to establish the technology. Based on the results of the

Pilot Project, assessment regarding availability of quantum of gas, its quality, consumption etc. will be done. It is not possible to make any assessment at this juncture.

(e) to (h) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is carrying out some trial to convert coal into oil in Assam. In this context, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd., Ranchi has prepared a pre-feasibility study on availability of coal from North Eastern Coalfields of CIL for commercial coal liquefaction plant of O.I.L. No foreign collaborator has been selected for the coal liquefaction and no project expenditure has been worked out as yet. However, possibility of inducting a foreign technology cannot be excluded.

[English]

#### Diseases among Children and Mother

1218. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether diseases among children and mother and infant mortality have increased over the years;

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

(c) whether any Programme has been launched in this regard; and

(d) if so, the Areas/States that are likely to be taken up initially under this Programme in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the data on Infant Mortality Rate available from Registrar General of India, the Infant Mortality Rates in India have shown decline over the years. The IMR Statewise for the last 3 years period from 2001 to 2003 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under the Reproductive the Child Health Programme (RCH) being implemented in all States of the country, various interventions for reducing infant & child

mortality and morbidity in children are being implemented. These include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of death due to diarrhoea and control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections. Health Care Workers have been trained in the diagnoses and management of pneumonia and diarrhoea. This is supplemented by the supply of Tab. Pediatric Cotrimaxazole for treatment of pneumonia and ORS for treatment of diarrhoea to the Health Workers in the Kit-A supplied to them under the RCH Programme. Essential New Born Care and promotion of exclusive breast-feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are also promoted in the community through Health Care Workers.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of access to quality healthcare including services for promotion of institutional deliveries and skilled attendance at birth, with special focus on 18 States with poor health indicators and weak health infrastructure. The ongoing Reproductive & Child Health Programme is a component of the NRHM. Under the NRHM, services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through:

- \* Implementation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health center/hospital.
- \* It has as its key component provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS); an integration of vertical Health & Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilisation of funds and infrastructure and strengthening health delivery.
- \* Setting up of fully functional First Referral Units to take care of emergency of obstetric care and provide regular services.
- \* Provide training to Medical officers in administering anaesthesia and in emergency obstetric care.
- \* It aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation & hygiene, nutrition, and safe drinking water through a District Plan for Health.
- \* It seeks to improve access of rural people, especially poor women and children, to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary healthcare.

**Statement****Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)**

Sl. No.	States	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
	All India	66	63	60
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66	62	59
2.	Assam	74	70	67
3.	Bihar	62	61	60
4.	Chhattisgarh	77	73	70
5.	Gujarat	60	60	57
6.	Haryana	66	62	59
7.	Jharkhand	62	51	51
8.	Karnataka	58	55	52
9.	Kerala	11	10	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	86	85	82
11.	Maharashtra	45	45	42
12.	Orissa	91	87	83
13.	Punjab	52	51	49
14.	Rajasthan	80	78	75
15.	Tamil Nadu	49	44	43
16.	Uttar Pradesh	83	80	76
17.	West Bengal	51	49	46
18.	Himachal Pradesh	54	52	49
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	48	45	44
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	39	37	34
21.	Delhi	29	30	28
22.	Goa	19	17	16
23.	Manipur	20	14	16
24.	Meghalaya	56	61	57

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Mizoram	19	14	16
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	42	34	33
28.	Tripura	39	34	32
29.	Uttaranchal	48	41	41
30.	A&N Islands	18	15	18
31.	Chandigarh	24	21	19
32.	D&N Haveli	58	56	54
33.	Daman & Diu	40	42	39
34.	Lakshadweep	33	25	26
35.	Pondicherry	22	22	24

Source : Sample Registration System, R.G. India

**Computerization of Post Offices  
in Uttar Pradesh**

1219. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Uttar Pradesh where computers have been installed and registration through computers has started during the last three years;

(b) the names of the computerized post offices, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the post offices that are proposed to be computerized and start registration through computers during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) One hundred and fourteen (114) Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh Circle have been provided with computers in last three years. All counter operations including registration of articles are done through computers.

(b) The names of such computerized Post Offices, district-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) It is proposed to take up computerization of around 200 Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh in the year

2005-06 subject to approval of the competent authority and availability of funds. The list of such Post Offices is yet to be finalized.

**Statement**

**District-wise List of Computerised Post Offices  
in Uttar Pradesh Circle**

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Post Office
1	2	3
1	Agra	1 Achhnera SO
		2 Agra Fort HO
		3 Agra HO
		4 Sanjay Place SO
2	Alligarh	5 Alligarh HO
3	Allahabad	6 Allahabad City SO
		7 Allahabad HO
		8 Allahabad KTY HO
4	Ambedkar Nagar	9 Akbarpur HO
5	Auraiya	10 Auraiya HO
6	Azamgarh	11 Azamgarh HO
7	Badaun	12 Badaun HO
8	Bahraich	13 Bahraich HO
9	Ballia	14 Ballia HO
		15 Rasra HO
10	Balrampur	16 Balrampur HO
11	Banda	17 Banda HO
12	Barabanki	18 Barabanki HO
13	Bareilly	19 Bareilly City SO
		20 Bareilly HO
14	Basti	21 Basti HO
15	Bijnore	22 Bijnore HO
		23 Dhampur HO

1	2	3
16	Bulandshahar	24 Bulandshahar HO
		25 Khurja HO
17	Deoria	26 Deoria HO
		27 Nai Bazar SO
18	Etah	28 Etah HO
19	Etawah	29 Etawah HO
20	Faizabad	30 Ayodhya SO
		31 Faizabad HO
21	Fatehgarh	32 Fatehgarh HO
22	Fatehpur	33 Fatehpur HO
23	Firozabad	34 Firozabad HO
24	G.B. Nagar	35 Noida HO
25	Ghaziabad	36 Ghaziabad HO
26	Ghazipur	37 Ghazipur HO
		38 Zamania HO
27	Gonda	39 Gonda HO
28	Gorakhpur	40 Gorakhpur HO
		41 Gorakhpur University SO
		42 Kunraghat HO
29	Hamirpur	43 Hamirpur HO
30	Hardoi	44 Hardoi HO
		45 Sandila HO
31	J.B. Nagar	46 Amroha HO
32	Jalaun	47 Orai HO
33	Jaunpur	48 Jaunpur HO
34	Jhansi	49 Jhansi HO
35	Kanpur	50 Anwarganj SO

1	2	3	1	2	3
		51 HNS Nagar SO			79 Rajendra Nagar SO
		52 I.I.T. Kanpur SO			80 RSM Nagar SO
		53 Kanpur Cantt HO			81 Secretariat SO
		54 Kanpur HO			82 UPG Camp SO
		55 Kidwai Nagar SO			83 Vikas Nagar SO
		56 R.K.Nagar SO	41	Mainpuri	84 Mainpuri HO
36	Kanpur Dehat	57 Nawabganj HO	42	Mathura	85 Mathura HO
37	Kheri	58 Kheri HO			86 Vrindaban SO
38	Kushinagar	59 Padrauna HO	43	Mau	87 Mau N Bhanjan HO
39	Lalitpur	60 Lalitpur HO	44	Meerut	88 Baraut HO
40	Lucknow	61 Alambagh SO			89 Hapur HO
		62 Aliganj Sec-C SO			90 Meerut Cantt HO
		63 Aminabad Park SO			91 Meerut City HO
		64 Avas Vikas Colony SO	45	Mirzapur	92 Mirzapur HO
		65 Canal Colony SO			93 Shakti Nagar SO
		66 D S Bazar SO	46	Moradabad	94 Chandausi SO
		67 Dilkusha SO			95 Moradabad HO
		68 Gomti Nagar SO	47	Muzaffarnagar	96 Muzaffarnagar HO
		69 Gurudwara SO			97 Muzaffarnagar City SO
		70 H.C. Bench SO			98 Shamli HO
		71 Jawahar Bhawan SO	48	Pilibhit	99 Pilibhit HO
		72 Lalbagh SO	49	Pratapgarh	100 Kunda SO
		73 LDA Colony SO			101 Patti SO
		74 Lucknow Chowk HO			102 Pratapgarh HO
		75 Lucknow GPO	50	Raebareli	103 Lalganj HO
		76 Mahanagar SO			104 Raebareli HO
		77 New Hyderabad SO	51	Rampur	105 Rampur HO
		78 Nirala Nagar SO	52	Saharanpur	106 Saharanpur HO



1	2	3
53	Shahjahanpur	107 Shahjahanpur HO
54	Siddhartha Nagar	108 Bansi HO
55	Sitapur	109 Sitapur HO
56	Sultanpur	110 Amethi SO 111 Sultanpur HO
57	Unnao	112 Unnao HO
58	Varanasi	113 Varanasi Cantt HO 114 Varanasi HO

**N.B.**

HO - Head Post Office

S.O. - Sub Post Office

[Translation]

**Nominated Seats in MBBS &  
BDS Courses**

1220. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase by at least 25 percent nominated seats in the MBBS and BDS courses in the Medical Colleges of the country;

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

(c) the total seats provided for the above mentioned courses each year at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Central Govt. does not nominate any seats for MBBS/BDS courses in the country. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is maintaining a Central Pool of MBBS and BDS seats by seeking voluntary contribution of seats from the States having medical/dental colleges and certain medical institutions in the country. During 2005-06, a contribution of 256 MBBS and 25 BDS seats was received from various donor States/Institutions. The seats so collected are allocated to the States/UTs not having medical/dental colleges of their own and other identified categories for nomination of candidates against these seats.

**Ban on Smoking in Films**

1221. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently imposed a ban on cigarette smoking in films;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also imposed ban on the publicity of cigarette through various advertisements in the country;

(d) whether the sale of cigarette is still continuing openly despite the ban imposed by the Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Amendments to the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Rules 2004, were made vide notification dated 31.05.2005, which inter-alia, provides that 'no individual or a person or a character in cinema and television programmes shall display tobacco products or their use'. It has been decided to provide exemption for the following:

- (i) Characters representing historical personalities or historical era;
- (ii) Old films both Indian and Foreign;
- (iii) Documentaries depicting dangers of tobacco use;
- (iv) Live coverage of news, current affairs, interviews, public meetings, sports events, cultural events being telecast in Television

These provisions will come into effect from 1st January 2006.

(c) Section 5 of "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003", which have come into effect from 1st May,

2004, prohibits advertisement which directly or indirectly suggests or promotes the use of consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Act further provides that no person shall promote any trademark or brand-name of tobacco products in exchange for a sponsorship, gift, prize or scholarship.

(d) The Government has imposed ban on advertisements only and not on sale of cigarette products. Sale of cigarette is, however, prohibited to (i) persons less than 18 years of age; and (ii) within 100 yards of any educational institution.

(e) The Tobacco Control Act, 2003 has penal provisions whereby persons acting in its contravention can be prosecuted. The Act is implemented mainly through the State Governments who have been advised to enforce the provisions of the law strictly and put in place necessary mechanisms.

#### **Ban on Migration to Iraq**

1222. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has put a ban on the migration of Indian labourers to Iraq;

(b) if so, the manner in which agents are successful in beguiling people and sending them to Iraq; and

(c) the number of recruitment agencies/agents whose licence has been cancelled by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Presently the agents are not successful in doing so from India.

[English]

#### **Lifting of Ban on Private Practice**

1223. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have lifted the ban on private practice by Government doctors working in the Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) It is for the concerned State Governments to decide the policy in respect of private practice by Government doctors. As per the reports received from State Governments some States viz. Assam, Orissa and Rajasthan have lifted the ban on private practice by Government doctors in the Primary Health Centres.

#### **ISDN Services in Karnataka**

1224. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) services in all the District Headquarters in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the time by which ISDN services are likely to be provided in every district HQs in Karnataka; and

(c) 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) Sir, all the 27 revenue district headquarters in Karnataka circle have already been provided with the Integrated Service Digital Network services.

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

#### **Setting up of Public Health Schools**

1225. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to set up two major public health schools on the lines of IITs and IIMs;

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

(c) the total cost likely to be involved in setting up of these health schools;

(d) the places where these schools are likely to be set up; and

(e) the extent to which these schools are likely to be help to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has obtained in-principle approval of the Planning Commission for setting up of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). PHFI will establish two Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) to impart highest quality of public health education in the country. The total cost estimated for establishment of two IIPHS is Rs.200 crores. The proposal envisages contribution from Government of India of only one-third of the total cost, i.e. Rs.65 crores with the balance being met out of private/corporate funds. Out of the two IIPHS proposed, one would be in Northern region around Delhi and the other in the Southern region of the country in Tamil Nadu. This initiative seeks to build the Human Resource capacity, which is considered essential to improve public health delivery on a large scale. The proposal is subject to further approvals of Government and participation of Private/Corporate sector.

#### Amendment in IT Act

1226. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating amendment of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to deal with offences like Video Voyeurism, child pornography etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The provisions related to offences on Video Voyeurism are proposed to be covered under Section 72 of the IT Act, 2000. Child pornography is proposed to be dealt in the existing Section 67 on publishing of information which is obscene in electronic form.

(c) Draft on the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been formulated for circulation to

various concerned Ministries/Departments for their comments.

[Translation]

#### Representation of SCs/STs/OBCs

1227. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and IFS Officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes as on date;

(b) whether they have not been given due representation in these services as per their population; and

(c) 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 PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The information received from the respective cadre controlling authorities is as below:

	IAS as on 24.11.2005	IPS as on 1.9.2005	IFS as on 1.11.2005
SCs	547	311	302
STs	312	158	197
OBCs	222	142	85

The recruitment to the IAS, IPS and IFS is made through the UPSC and reservation in these services are provided as per Central Government guidelines applicable to All India Services.

[English]

#### Shortage of Doctors in Rural Areas

1228. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the biggest challenge in the delivery of rural health care is ensuring availability of doctors in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and the Community Health Centres (CHCs);

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has made a suggestion to the State Governments to increase the retirement age of doctors to 65 years;

(c) If so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) the measures suggested by the Union Government to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir, The biggest challenge in the delivery of Rural Health Care Services is to ensure the availability of services of doctors in PHCs and CHCs. In the CHCs about 40.9% of Surgeons, 24.6% of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, 41.1% of Physicians and about 42.8% of Paediatricians posts were vacant. Overall about 37.1% of the sanctioned posts of specialists at CHC were vacant. At present 700 PHCs are without doctors for reasons such delays in recruitment, in appropriate person policy and also lack of basic amenities and incentives for working in the rural areas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A number of States have taken various initiatives such as compulsory rural/difficult area posting for admission to post-graduate courses and as a pre-requisite for promotion, foreign assignment or training abroad; compulsory rotation of doctors on completion of prescribed tenure as per classification of locations; contractual appointment of doctors; of foregoing non-practicing allowance and undertaking practice without compromising on assigned duties, as per the service rules; offering incentive form of allowance etc. to ensure their presence in rural areas but it seems not to have yielded an appreciable results.

(d) The measures suggested, to ensure availability of services of doctors in rural areas, by a Task Group constituted on the subject under National Rural Health Mission are as below:

- Increase in the age of retirement of doctors giving preference of posting near hometown;

- Decentralization of recruitment at district level;
- Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;
- Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third;
- Increasing the admission capacity in medical colleges for Anesthesia;
- Reviving the Diploma Course in Anesthesia;
- To start one year Certificate Course in Anesthesia for Medical Officers working in the system at present to be given by National Board of Examination;
- Recognition of five hundred bedded Hospitals to provide the facility for conducting the above course;
- Hiring of private practitioners on case-to-case basis.

[Translation]

#### Vulgar SMS Messages

1229. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of sending vulgar SMS have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken to check recurrence of such incidents;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ban mobile phones equipped with camera facility;

(e) If so, the time by which the ban is likely to be imposed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Some cases of sending vulgar SMS have come to the notice of the Government through media reports. Offences such as misuse of any communication equipment for transmission of message like vulgar SMS are covered under the existing laws of the land.

(d) to (f) Integration of various devices in one device is an advantage provided by the advancement of technology by way of convergence of communication, computers and content. Camera mobile phone is one of such device. Use of camera mobile phone for taking pictures is similar to using any other miniature camera attached with other device such as camera in-built in a pen, camera in-built in a cigarette lighter etc. Therefore use of camera mobile phone solely depends on the user and offences such as taking illegal photography using camera mobile phone are covered under the existing laws of the land.

#### Payment of Cess to Labour Welfare Board

1230. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has requested the Union government to provide more than 105 crore rupees for payment of cess to the Labour Welfare Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has provided its share to the DMRC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The matter is under examination.

[English]

#### New Building Bylaws

1231. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to draft new building bylaws, clearly laying down the misuse of residential properties for commercial purposes, carrying out unauthorised construction of a room or balcony or encroaching the Government land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF

URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that an exercise has been undertaken to rewrite the Building Bylaws which include Inter-alia a transparent procedural process for sanction of Building Plan, so that unauthorized constructions are minimized.

Provisions regarding action against misuse of residential properties are covered under Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and New Delhi Municipal Council Act etc.

[Translation]

#### Loan Liability of Families

1232. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan liability per family has increased in the country and its monetary savings have gone down during the past three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of monetary savings vis-a-vis Gross Domestic Product (GDP) achieved by families during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) the percentage of loan liability increased per family during each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the information available in the National Accounts Statistics 2005, the loan liability incurred by the household sector is estimated to be Rs.405.8, Rs.681.1 and Rs.824.2 per person for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. The monetary savings measured as the gross financial savings of the household sector were estimated to be Rs.2954.8, Rs.3092.8 and Rs.3753.0 per person respectively for these years. It may be mentioned that the financial savings and loan liabilities here are on per capita and not family basis as the comparable estimates for number of families in the county are not available for these years. It may further be mentioned that these estimates are at current prices.

(b) The net change in financial assets of the household sector measured by the difference between gross financial savings and loan liabilities was Rs.2549.0,

Rs.2411.7 and Rs.2928.8 per person in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. It may be seen that the net position in 2003-04 is higher than in 2001-02, although it did go down in 2002-03. It may be mentioned that the household sector, as defined in the National Accounts includes not only families but unincorporated enterprises as well, and data on each of these categories is not separately available. It is, therefore, not possible to identify the reasons for changes in the financial position of the household sector since the behaviour of these two categories may be quite different.

(c) The information for monetary savings of the households is available only till 2003-04. As per the National Accounts Statistics, brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation, the ratio of gross financial savings to GDP at market prices was 13.25 per cent and 14.59 per cent respectively for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(d) Based on the information in part (a) of the reply, the increase in per person loan liabilities during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 works out to 67.8 per cent and 21.0 per cent respectively over the previous year.

[English]

#### Assistance for Health Schemes

1233. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking Assistance from DFID, World Bank and WHO for the implementation of Health Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Union Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the assistance would be provided for the said schemes and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has received a proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking grants-in-aid from the DFID of approximately 100 million pounds for enhancing Service Delivery and Quality Health Care covering a period of 5 years from 2005-2010. The key thematic areas covered under the proposal are as follows:

- i. AIDS, sexual and reproductive health;
- ii. Antenatal, neonatal, maternal, child health;
- iii. Reducing disease burden;
- iv. Enhancing access to quality health care; and
- v. Expanding and strengthening Indian Systems of Medicine.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has concurred in the proposal and the Project Concept Note and has forwarded it to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for further consideration.

#### Setting up of Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

1234. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur and Kheri, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more telephone exchanges in the said districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A statement indicating the district-wise number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of Uttar Pradesh including the districts of Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur and Kheri is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

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

#### Statement

*District-wise number of Telephone Exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of Uttar Pradesh including the districts of Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur and Kheri*

Sl. No.	Telecom District (Secondary Switching Area)	No. of Telephone Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	64
2.	Azamgarh	60

1	2	3
3.	Bahraich	54
4.	Ballia	39
5.	Banda	84
6.	Barabanki	60
7.	Basti	64
8.	Deoria	55
9.	Itawah	26
10.	Faizabad	57
11.	Farrukhabad	38
12.	Fatehpur	41
13.	Ghazipur	33
14.	Gonda	56
15.	Gorakhpur	55
16.	Hamirpur	32
17.	Hardoi	30
18.	Jaunpur	56
19.	Jhansi	43
20.	Kanpur	68
21.	Kheri	69
22.	Lucknow	41
23.	Mainpuri	25
24.	Mau	32
25.	Mirzapur	41
26.	Orai	32
27.	Pratapgarh	47
28.	Raebareli	56
29.	Shahjahanpur	23
30.	Sitapur	50

1	2	3
31.	Sultanpur	69
32.	Unnao	45
33.	Varanasi	79
34.	Agra	47
35.	Aligarh	41
36.	Bareilly	31
37.	Bijnore	47
38.	Eulandshahr	25
39.	Ghaziabad	29
40.	Meerut	29
41.	Mathura	33
42.	Muzaffarnagar	44
43.	Moradabad	43
44.	Noida	11
45.	Saharanpur	30
46.	Badaun	15
47.	Etah	23
48.	Pilibhit	25
49.	Rampur	21
Total		2,118

**Sending of Labourers Abroad**

1235. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with certain countries to send labourers there during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, whether some provisions have been made in these agreements for providing wages and other facilities to the labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of the

countries where these labourers are likely to be sent during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Computerisation of Post Offices**

1236. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS  
SADHU YADAV:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to computerize all departmental post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the required fund has been released for the purpose;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the computerization is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 26,165 Departmental Post Offices in the country. Currently, the Department is implementing a Plan Scheme to computerize 7700 large Departmental Post Offices in the Tenth Plan with an approved outlay of Rs. 836 crore. The Department has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to computerize remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.

(b) The Department has projected an estimated additional expenditure of Rs. 625 crore to computerize the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.

(c) Funds are released regularly through Annual Plan allocation to the Department for computerizing 7700 large Departmental Post Offices as approved for the Tenth Plan. Approval for computerizing the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices is awaited and hence no fund has been released for the purpose.

(d) A project report on computerization of the remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices has been submitted to Planning Commission, which is under examination.

(e) Computerization of 7700 large Departmental Post Offices will be completed by March, 2007. Remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices can be taken up for computerization only after receipt of the approval of the proposal by the competent authority.

#### **Upgradation of Block District Level Hospitals**

1237. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to focus on upgradation of block and district level hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also planning to launch a pilot project of universal health insurance in the country;

(c) if so, the amount allocated for improvement of health infrastructure in rural areas during the current year;

(d) the number of health centres in the country; and

(e) the extent to which these measures are likely to improve the health care in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The block level hospitals i.e. Community Health Centres (CHCs) are to be upgraded to Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) under National Rural Health Mission.

As far as upgradation of Distt. Level hospitals is concerned, State Health Systems Development Project with the World Bank assistance aimed at improving/upgrading secondary level health care facilities has been completed/under implementation in State of Andhra



Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra, U.P., Uttaranchal, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu.

(b) The Govt. is planning to make assured health care available at reduced financial risk through pilots of Community Health Insurance under NRHM in the country.

(c) Total amount of Rs.228.60 Crores has been released during 2005-06 for upgradation of Community Health Centres (CHCs) to IPHS, in the country.

(d) At present there are 142655 Sub-centres, 23109 Primary Health Centres and 3222 Community Health Centres, functioning in the country.

(e) These measures would provide quality health care services to the people in the rural areas, viable first referral mechanisms i.e. at the level of the community health centres, sub-divisional hospitals and district hospitals, improve the health status of the people, especially the poor and the under served and would improve efficiency in allocation and use of health resources through policy reform and institutional development.

[Translation]

**Involvement of Pak Terrorists In  
Delhi Bomb Blasts**

1238. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his talks with the President of Pakistan on October 31, 2005 had expressed his apprehension over the involvement of terrorist groups of Pakistan in the bomb blasts in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether following the apprehension expressed by the Prime minister, Pakistan had requested the Union Government to provide preliminary evidence regarding the involvement of terrorist groups of Pakistan in the said bomb blasts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has provided any information relating to bomb explosions and training camps of terrorist groups being run on the border areas with Pakistan;

(f) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(g) if not, the reasons for delay in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (g) In a telephonic conversation with President Musharraf who called the Prime Minister on 31 October 2005 to express condolence for the Delhi serial blasts, PM told the President of Pakistan that the country was outraged at these heinous acts of terrorism. PM again drew the President's attention to Pakistan's commitment to ending cross-border terrorism and said that we continue to be disturbed and dismayed at indications of the external linkages of terrorist groups with the October 29 bomb blasts. PM said India expects Pakistan to act against terrorism directed at India.

President Musharraf asked for the blasts to be investigated and assured that he would take action if India shared the results of the investigation.

The blasts are under investigation by the concerned authorities.

[English]

**Development of Small and Medium Towns**

1239. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of small and medium towns taken up for development during the Ninth and Tenth Plan period alongwith the amount invested in each of such towns so far particularly in respect of Gujarat, State-wise and Plan-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have furnished utilisation certificates in this regard so far; and

(c) if so, the towns likely to be undertaken for development during the remaining part of the Tenth Plan period alongwith the funds likely to be provided for each city, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Additional Assistance for Computerization  
of Post Offices**

1240. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of the Posts has sought an additional financial support of Rs. 626 crore to computerize all the 26,000 post offices across the country;

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

(c) whether the Department had announced a slew of new postal products and services such as corporate e-post and a new-look letter box, at the ceremony to mark the 150 years of Indian Post;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Department has requested the Planning Commission for additional financial support; and

(f) If so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the performance of postal department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Tenth Plan, the Department of Posts is implementing a Plan-Scheme to computerize 7,700 Departmental Post Offices with an outlay of Rs.836 crores. It has sought for an additional financial support of Rs.625 crores from the Planning Commission to computerize remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices across the country.

(b) The Planning Commission is examining the proposal.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Department has announced introduction of corporate e-Post and a new look letter box at the ceremony to mark the 150 years of India Post.

(d) The corporate e-Post service provides for a corporate customer to print their messages including text and pictures on their official stationery, scan it and send it as e-mail by e-Post to a maximum of 9999 addresses in one go. These messages are then downloaded, printed, enveloped and delivered by the postmen to the addresses at their doorsteps. The new look letterbox, made of high quality stainless steel with a fibre glass top, would increase the serviceable life of a letter box. This would allow comfortable posting of larger mail articles and would allow the Department of Posts to generate revenue from advertisements on spaces specifically designed for carrying advertisements.

(e) As stated at (a) above, the Department has asked for an additional financial support of Rs.625 crores

for computerizing remaining 18,465 Departmental Post Offices.

(f) The Department is currently computerizing 7,700 post offices in the Tenth Plan. In addition, major mail offices will be computerized and the speed post centres are getting further upgraded. A National Data Centre is also being set up in New Delhi to connect all computerized offices. These computerization efforts will help to provide various on-line services to the customers, introduce new e-enabled services, reduce customers' waiting time at the counters and improve the quality of postal service. Two more Automatic Mail Processing Centres will be set up in New Delhi and Kolkata for faster processing of mail.

[Translation]

#### Reception of Cellular Services in VVIP Areas

1241. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:.

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

(a) whether there is poor receptivity of the cellular services in the VVIP areas of NDMC and Lutyens Zone as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated September 2, 2005;

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

(c) whether there are only twelve cellular towers in the Lutyens Zone in New Delhi against the actual requirement of 135 towers;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the cellular services in the country particularly in New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Poor receptivity of cellular services had been reported in some parts of Delhi, especially in Lutyen's Bungalow Zone area and New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) area. This problem is primarily due to inability of the operators to install the required number of telecom towers/cell sites in these areas

due to the problems in getting the requisite permission from NDMC and other agencies. Now, the NDMC and other agencies have started granting requisite permission for installation of telecom towers/cell sites and necessary steps are being taken by the mobile operators to install additional mobile towers in these areas to improve coverage.

#### Missing Indian Passengers

1242. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fate of 46 Indian passengers on board the Karwaan-a-aman bus travelling from Srinagar to Pakistan occupied Kashmir is still not known;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by the Government to trace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Of the 54 Indian passengers of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service stranded in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir due to the October 8 earthquake, 36 people have returned. The death of one person has been confirmed. The fate of the remaining 17 people is not yet known. Government have requested the Government of Pakistan several times to find out about their welfare. There has been no intimation so far from it about the fate of these people.

[English]

#### Wrongful Depiction of POK by Google

1243. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Google has shown PoK as part of Pakistan in its maps as reported in the Times of India dated October 22, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India has sent any official protest to Google in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir;

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) A letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Executive Committee and CEO of Google Inc. drawing attention to the wrong depiction of India's boundaries. The Indian Embassy in Washington has also been instructed to take up the matter with Google Inc.;

(d) Not applicable.

#### Wireline Capacity of BSNL

1244. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has made huge investment after it was demerged from the Department of Telecom (DoT);

(b) if so, the details of investments made, year-wise;

(c) the total wireline capacity of BSNL and number of subscribers on BSNL network on the date of incorporation and as on October 31, 2005; and

(d) the investments made by the BSNL in wireline business during the last three years and the future plans of BSNL in wireline business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the Capital Expenditure incurred by BSNL during the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Capital Expenditure Incurred (Amount Rs. in crores)
1.	2001-02	17006.32
2.	2002-03	12057.00
3.	2003-04	6537.16
4.	2004-05	7445.66

(c) Total wireline capacity of BSNL network as on 01-10-2000 was 2,97,44,101 which has grown to 4,71,85,637 as on 31-10-2005.

(d) Details of the Capital Expenditure incurred towards Wireline Business during the last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Capital Expenditure Incurred (Amount Rs. in crores)
1.	2001-02	13478.08*
2.	2002-03	7352.13*
3.	2003-04	5113.75**
4.	2004-05	1820.01

\* Includes Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system also.

\*\* Includes WLL and Cellular Mobile Service also.

A part of the network component such as transmission network and other infrastructure is shared by the wireline. WLL and Cellular Mobile Services due to which exact segregation of scheme wise investment is not available.

As regards future plans of BSNL in wirelines business, it is stated that the new exchanges are being opened only in exceptional cases and in those areas which are techno-commercially viable. However, to clear the pending waiting list in rural areas where capacity is available, norms for laying of underground cable have been relaxed upto 5 kms from the earlier standard of 2.5 kms. A major setback to wireline telephony is the churning of subscribers towards wirelines services due to which surrenders in wireline are being observed over the last few years. This is a worldwide trend not peculiar to BSNL. Nevertheless BSNL has been making all efforts to arrest the surrenders. Some of the initiatives that BSNL has taken to reverse this trend include:

(i) Value added features are being offered to wireline subscribers just like those in mobile services.

(ii) BSNL has launched Broadband in January 2005 and is offering these services to its landline subscribers.

(iii) The external plant faults which is the most vulnerable segment in the wireline network is being improved by replacement of paper core cable by jelly filled cable and converting the external plant poleless.

#### Development of Coal Blocks

1245. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) is floating joint venture to develop virgin coal blocks as reported in The Business Line dated July 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has agreed to provide loan for mine development programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the BCCL has engaged contractors for production of coal from small coal seam patches; 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 NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) BCCL has not floated any joint venture till date.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) and (b) above.

(e) To improve production and profitability BCCL has engaged hired HEMM for production of coal from small and isolated patches which have been left out in past due to habitation or Railway line or fire etc. and which could not be worked as regular mine by BCCL.

(f) Patches which are being worked by hired equipment are as follows:

Ghutway Patch, Bararee 'A' Patch, Bararee 'B' Patch, Bagdigi 'C' Patch, Bhatdih Patch, Kuya Patch, Basdeopur 'A' & 'B' Patch, Murulidih-II Patch, Tetulmar section of Mudidih Patch, Jenagora Patch E, Abandoned Salanpur OCP Patch, Chandore Patch, Crusher Patch, Benidih, Nathkhas section of Muraidih Colliery, Nichitpur Patch, Gonddudih Patch, Jealgora Patch.

[Translation]

#### Performance of BSNL Mobile Service

1246. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be provided to those who had applied for the same during the last five years;

(b) whether the BSNL mobile service is not

working properly despite the fact that the BSNL has a wide network while the private companies are expanding their network;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, most of the fixed line waiting list is in rural remote areas. BSNL is taking several steps to make available telephone facility in these areas such as:

- (i) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas;
- (ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 Kms against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms for landline exchanges;
- (iii) Deployment of mobile network on all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and the State highways, which give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas, thus catering to demand for wireless connectivity in these areas.

With all the above efforts, most of the existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by December, 2006.

(b) to (d) Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) service of BSNL is working satisfactorily and is meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters set by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in general. However, due to the overwhelming response for BSNL mobile connections from the public, present capacity of the mobile network in some of the Telecom circles has been fully utilized. As such, some congestion during the busy hours in some areas is observed.

BSNL has been augmenting its GSM network continuously and action has been taken to augment its mobile network capacity by 14 million lines during the current financial year. Further, mobile network is being optimized for its performance continuously and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI.

[English]

#### Tenants of NRIs

1247. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether a number of Indians residing abroad are taking undue advantage of their status of being NRI and are putting pressure on the Government to get vacated their parental houses, which have been rented out in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No.

(b) No.

#### Metro Rail in Andhra Pradesh

1248. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has made a proposal to the Union Government to introduce the Metro Rail in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The State Government proposes construction of Metro Rail at an estimated cost of Rs.6366 crores on three corridors, on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, as follows:

- |                                     |   |         |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Miyapur - Chaitanyapuri          | - | 26 kms. |
| 2. Secunderabad - Falaknuna         | - | 13 kms. |
| 3. Tamaka - Panjagutta - Hitec City | - | 20 kms. |

The State Government has invited global expressions of interest for the same.

[Translation]

**Tubewell Programme in Bihar**

1249. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tubewell Programme is being run under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' to provide irrigation facility to farmers of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a plan to provide total number of six lakhs, forty thousand, three hundred and sixty six private tubewells and pump sets at the rate of one lakh sixty thousand per year for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 under this scheme;

(d) if so, whether the fixed target in this regard has been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Programme envisages installation of six lakh and forty thousand private shallow tubewells with pumpsets at the rate of one lakh and sixty thousand per year for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07. Backlog of previous year is carried forward to the next year.

(d) and (e) According to figures furnished by NABARD, the achievement in 2003-04 was 67%, while in 2004-05 the achievement was 108% of that year's target in terms of number of tubewells for which funds were disbursed to beneficiaries. The scheme is still under implementation.

[English]

**Special Purpose Vehicle for Funding Infrastructure**

1250. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines for the Special Purpose

Vehicle (SPV) to fund infrastructure projects has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether a group of banks and financial institutions has been constituted to evaluate the projects and disburse the funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the borrowings of the SPV made from the market will be guaranteed by the Government but there will be no counter-guarantee for projects funded by the SPVs;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the projects to benefit from the SPV this year will be guaranteed by the Government but there will be no counter-guarantee for the projects funded by the SPV;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) the details of projects likely to benefit from the SPV during the current year; and

(j) the total amount earmarked for this propose and the extent to which these funds have been utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme for the SPV is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No Groups of Banks/FI are to be constituted. The lending consortium can be different for each project.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, however the extent of guarantees to be expended to the SPV will be subject to a limit set annually. Projects are expected to be financially viable and not require government guarantees to support them.

(g) and (h) There is no proposal to provide guarantees to individual projects in the current year.

(i) No project proposal has been received so far.

(j) No lending target has been set for the current year. The Budget 2005-06 has a provision for providing guarantees to the extent of Rs. 10,000 crore.

### **Statement**

***Establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for funding Infrastructure Projects - Scheme to set up a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) called India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL).***

#### **The Scheme**

In order to implement the Budget Announcement, the Department of Economic Affairs has drawn up a Scheme for Financing Viable Infrastructure Projects through a Special Purpose Vehicle (hereinafter referred to as the Scheme). The Scheme recognises that long term debt is usually not available to infrastructure projects because of the following constraints:

- (a) Absence of benchmark rates for raising long term debt from the market;
- (b) Asset-liability mismatch of the tenor of debt in case of most financial institutions; and
- (c) High cost of long term debt.

The Scheme is designed to address these constraints.

The salient features of the Scheme are:-

- (a) The Scheme will be implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle called the India Infrastructure Financing Company Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the IIFCL). The IIFCL will be incorporated as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Apart from its equity, the IIFCL will be funded through long-term debt raised from the open market. The source of debt can be the following:
  - (i) Rupee debt raised from the market through suitable instruments created for the purpose; it would ordinarily raise debt of maturity of ten years and beyond.
  - (ii) The IIFCL may also borrow from bilateral or multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
  - (iii) It may, with the prior approval of the Government, raise foreign currency debt, including through External Commercial Borrowings.
- (c) The Government may extend a guarantee for

repayment of principal and interest of a part or whole of the borrowings of the IIFCL. The extent of guarantee that may be provided by the government would be set at the beginning of each fiscal year by the Ministry of Finance, within the limits available under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. For 2005-06, the extent of guarantee to be provided by Government of India will not exceed Rs 10,000 crore.

- (d) The IIFCL would finance only commercially viable projects sponsored by any entity viz. Public sector, Private sector or public private partnerships. Viable projects may also include those projects which become viable after receiving viability gap funding under a Government scheme.
  - (e) The projects may belong to the following sectors:
    - i. Roads and bridges, railways, seaports, airports, inland waterways and other transportation projects;
    - ii. Power;
    - iii. Urban transport, water supply, sewage, solid waster management and other physical infrastructure in urban areas;
    - iv. Gas pipelines;
    - v. Infrastructure projects in Special Economic Zones; and
    - vi. International convention centres and other tourism infrastructure projects.
- Provided that an Empowered Committee may, with approval of the Finance Minister, add or delete any sector/sub-sectors from this list. The Empowered Committee as defined in the Scheme would be a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Economic Affairs) and include Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary (Expenditure) and Secretary of the line Ministry dealing with the subject.
- (f) The IIFCL may render financial assistance through one or more of the following means:
    - (i) Direct lending to the eligible projects. Normally the IIFCL will lend that portion of the debt that is over ten years' maturity.

- (ii) Refinance to Banks and Financial Institutions for loans with tenor of five years (preferably ten years) or more.
  - (iii) Any other method approved by the Government from time to time.
- (g) The SPV will not undertake any appraisal of Infrastructure on its own. The appraisal of the project would be done by the lead bank of the Inter-Institutional Group (Lenders' Consortium) financing the project. To qualify as a lead bank for the purpose of this scheme, a bank must have a minimum exposure of 25% of total project debt. All disbursements and recoveries would be undertaken through the lead bank.
- (h) Loan assistance from the SPV shall not exceed 20% of the project cost.
- (i) A project awarded to a private sector company for development, financing, construction, maintenance and operation through Public Private Partnership (as defined in the Scheme for Support to Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure) shall have overriding priority under this scheme if a project is awarded through open competitive bidding.
- (j) Private sector companies that implement infrastructure projects, except as a competitively bid Public Private Partnership Project, will not be eligible for direct lending and only the refinancing option will be available in such cases. Further, the total lending to such projects will be kept within 20% of the lending programme of the IIFCL.
- (k) The rate of interest charged by the IIFCL shall be such as to cover all fund costs including guarantee fee as well as administrative cost.

**The Implementing Agency (IIFCL)**

- i. The India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) will have an authorized share capital of Rs 1000 crore and an initial paid up capital of Rs 10 crore
- ii. The IIFCL will be governed by its Board of Directors, which will have not less than 7 members. The Managing Director and one

other Director shall be whole-time functional Directors. Three part time Directors will be experts from outside the Government. Two part-time Government Directors will be nominated, one each by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The Composition of the Board will be reviewed at the end of two years to determine whether the continuation of the two Government Directors is necessary.

- iii. The whole time directors will be selected on the basis of relevant qualifications and experience by a Search Committee comprising Finance Secretary/Secretary DEA, Secretary/Additional Secretary, Banking, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and two experts to be nominated by the Government. Their remuneration package would be recommended by the Search Committee having regards to their qualification and experience.
- iv. The SPV would be serviced by the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance. A temporary post of Officer on Special Duty, at the level of Joint Secretary/Director in the Government of India, would be created in the Department for four months from the date of approval to facilitate the establishment of the SPV.

*[Translation]*

**Rawatbhata Atomic Power Plant**

1251. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether first unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Scheme (RAPS), Rawatbhata, has not been producing power since October, 2004;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which production is likely to start;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to compensate Rajasthan for the loss of power due to the permanent closure of first unit;
- (e) whether the State Government has requested to increase the allotment for third to sixth unit of RAPS;



(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Union Government on the request of Rajasthan?

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

(b) The Unit has been shut down for detailed techno-economic evaluation for its refurbishment.

(c) It is premature at this stage to fix any time frame for the commencement of operation of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-I as the detailed evaluation is still underway.

(d) The State of Rajasthan has an allocation from the Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) in addition to share from Rajasthan Atomic power Station units 2 to 4.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The State of Rajasthan has requested for allocation of an equivalent capacity of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1, from units 3 & 4, a share of 85% of the balance capacity from units 3 & 4 and 85% of the capacity from units 5 & 6.

(g) The requirements of all the states in the Electricity region are considered by the Ministry of Power for appropriate allocation.

#### National Water Commission

1252. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any measures to implement projects for the supply of drinking water and sewage disposal;

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

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to constitute a National Water Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Ministry of Urban Development is providing financial assistance to State Governments for implementation of water supply schemes for small towns with population less than 20,000 under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) since 1993-94. The financing pattern is 50:50 between Centre and the States including five per cent from the urban local bodies. Besides, Government is shortly launching National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) for select cities and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) for remaining cities. Water Supply and sewage disposal are eligible components under the new schemes. The existing scheme of AUWSP will be subsumed in the new scheme of UIDSSMT.

(b) The details of state-wise implementation of the projects under AUWSP are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration to constitute a National Water Commission.

#### Statement

*Ministry of Urban Development  
Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)  
Details of Implementation from 1993-94 Till date*

Sl.No.	State	Schemes approved		Total Central Share Released (Rs.in lakh)
		Nos.	Estt. Cost (Rs.in lakh)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	8583.34	3237.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	2963.62	540.96

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	21	6671.19	2320.33
4.	Bihar	33	4919.7	2020.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	42	3643.83	1790.12
6.	Goa	4	352.35	176.18
7.	Gujarat	70	9317.69	4116.53
8.	Haryana	38	7667.89	3570.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16	3208.43	1519.92
10.	J & K	15	5561.58	1799.05
11.	Jharkhand	16	3184.79	1181.34
12.	Karnataka	45	14554.18	5681.61
13.	Kerala	13	3854.49	1379.73
14.	Madhya Pradesh	147	15820.26	7275.28
15.	Maharashtra	37	11578.24	4827.05
16.	Manipur	26	3455.19	1603.34
17.	Meghalaya	2	581.73	290.87
18.	Mizoram	8	1134.71	567.36
19.	Nagaland	2	902.81	451.40
20.	Orissa	35	7133.04	2765.29
21.	Punjab	16	1225.36	501.61
22.	Rajasthan	72	12411.54	5305.56
23.	Sikkim	2	451.56	225.78
24.	Tamil Nadu	93	10471.00	4823.56
25.	Tripura	12	3592.23	1486.53
26.	Uttar Pradesh	390	30829.75	14990.18
27.	Uttaranchal	22	4426.58	2085.14
28.	West Bengal	22	3685.86	1441.85
<b>Total</b>		<b>1244</b>	<b>182182.94</b>	<b>77974.72</b>

**N.B.**

1. In addition an amount of Rs.4.00 crore was released for rehabilitation of Water Supply system in Tsunami affected Port Blair.
2. No central share released for other Union Territories.

### Pre-Paid Coupons of Mobile Phones

1253. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the procedures for purchasing the pre-paid coupons of mobile cellphones and per coupon talk time given to the subscribers;

(b) whether only a talktime of Rs. 175 is given to subscribers for a coupon of Rs.320:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the billing process in post paid mobile phones;

(e) whether the mobile phones do not function even within its service area;

(f) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No specific procedure has been prescribed for purchase of pre-paid coupons. However, the operators are required to ensure adequate verification of the subscribers before enrolling them.

Tariff for mobile services are forborne except for national roaming. Depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations, service providers offer recharge coupons of various denominations. Thus, there are a large number of recharge coupons available in the market with varying combinations of talk time, validity period and processing charges. The talk time contained in these recharge coupons depends on various factors like call charges, validity period, value added services etc. Some operators even offer recharge coupons with full talk time. Service Tax would in any case be payable. No recharge coupon of Rs. 320/- with talk time of Rs. 175/- is currently offered by mobile service providers as per tariff reports filed with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The mobile subscribers get billed as per the tariff plans chosen by them which are duly filed with TRAI and conform to regulatory guidelines.

(d) Like basic telephones, for post paid mobile phones also, the bills are generated at the end of billing cycle and sent to subscribers for payment.

(e) Yes, Sir. Sometimes the mobile phones do not function even within its service area due to several reasons including the following reasons:

(i) Out of coverage area or areas where coverage is less such as basement of a building etc.

(ii) Signal strength of an operator is poor.

(f) Yes, Sir. The issue of poor coverage of mobile service has come to the notice of the Government.

(g) With the expansion of subscriber base, mobile networks are to be upgraded by various service providers to meet Quality of Service (QoS) standards. This is a continuous process in terms of reengineering of network by addition of more Base Transceivers Station (BTS), adopting techniques such as installation of boosters and adoption of micro cell architecture. It is noticed that network upgradation exercise is not commensurate with the increase in subscriber base which, inter-alia, include installation of additional BTS.

The Government has taken steps to simplify procedures for clearance of sites for installation of towers apart from releasing more spectrum by coordination with existing users.

### Rates for transportation of coal

1254. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works relating to transportation of coal were given to companies run by ex-servicemen at higher rates as compared to rates charged by private contractors in WCL region;

(b) if so, the rates per tonne charged by the private contractors and companies of ex-servicemen in different coal mines for coal transportation under the WCL region;

(c) the loss suffered by WCL on account of higher rates to companies of ex-servicemen during the last three years, yearwise;

(d) whether there is any violation of rules by these transport companies;

(e) if so, whether any complaint regarding violation of these rules have been received by the WCL management; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against these transport companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Ex-servicemen companies are being paid on the basis of normative

rates which were recommended by M/s Pricewater House Coopers and approved by CIL Board in April, 2001. These rates are higher than the rates for the civilian contractors.

(b) Comparative statement of rates for Ex-Servicemen Transport Companies and civilian contractors for last three years of WCL is given below:

Sl. No.	Year 2002-03			Year 2003-04			Year 2004-05		
	Lead in KM	Pvt. Contractors Rate in Rs/Te	ESM Rate in Rs/Te	Lead in KM	Pvt. Contractors Rate in Rs/Te	ESM Rate in Rs/Te	Lead in KM	Pvt. Contractors Rate in Rs/Te	ESM Rate in Rs/Te
1	0-1	6.48 to 7.15	12.1	0-1	5.50 to 7.48	12.75	0-1	6.33 to 7.85	13.03
2				1-2	7.71 to 11.77	15.87	1-2	9.75 to 10.46	16.31
3							2-3	11.5	19.96
4	3-4	15.84	20.93	3-4	15.47 to 16.45	22.62			
5				4-5	16.88	26.18			
6				10-11	22.77 to 23.2	44.12			
7	11-12	22.99	42.34	11-12	23.76	47.18			
8	14-15	29.48	50.2						
9	19-20	48.6	62.02	19-20	43.8	67.47			

(c) Since rates for ESM companies are based on norms and are not evaluated through competitive bidding as the objective of deployment of ESM companies is to rehabilitate ex-servicemen and war widows, the rates of transportation being given to ESM companies are not compared with those of civilian contractors. Therefore, there is no loss to the coal company.

(d) No Sir, no complaints regarding violations of rules have been received so far.

(e) and (f) In view of reply to part (d) above, question does not arise.

[English]

#### Independent Federal Agency Status to CBI

1255. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI Chief has suggested the

conversion of the investigating agency into a federal body as reported in The Indian Express dated November 7, 2005;

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

(c) whether the CBI chief also suggested an amendment in the law to allow the CBI to take up cases suo motu without the consent of the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Chief Ministers' conference has also recommended for making CBI autonomous; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ease the constraints faced by the CBI pertaining to staff shortage and infrastructure?

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 PACHOURI):**

(a) No such proposal has been received from the CBI.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government has been taking necessary steps to fill up vacant posts as per the provisions of the relevant Recruitment Rules and keeping in view the requirement from time to time and also bring about improvement in infrastructure. The Government has recently approved construction of CBI headquarters building at Delhi at a cost of Rs.137.72 crores.

**Construction of Venues and Games Villages in Delhi**

1256. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the construction of various Venues and Games Villages in Delhi for the Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been entrusted the task of constructing such Games Villages and Sports Venues;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on their construction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The estimates for construction have not been drawn as this would depend on decision on venues and on Games Villages.

(e) DDA had engaged M/s Event Knowledge Services for venue appraisal. DDA has also submitted options for construction of Games Village along with

proposals for upgradation of its sports infrastructure for conducting some of the events.

**CAG Report on CIL**

1257. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Coal India Limited has caused financial loss worth Rs. several thousands crores;

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

(c) the number of cases that the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) brought to the notice of the Government and the action taken by the Government on each of these cases;

(d) whether the C&AG in its report Nos.3 of 2005 (PS'Js) has brought out the unfruitful expenditure of Rs.9198 crores in the matter of installing a captive power plant for the supply of power to Moonidih Washery;

(e) whether it has failed to install the power plant; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in its Reports No.2, 3 & 4 of 2005 (Commercial) have reviewed the accounts and performance of the Public Sector Undertakings including Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries and made their observations thereon. 17 and 10 paras respectively in Reports No.2 and 3 pertain to CIL and its subsidiaries. Chapters III and IV in Report No.4 of 2005 pertain to BCCL and WCL respectively. The action taken notes on these audit paras will be submitted to C&AG/Committee on Public Undertakings in due course.

(d) and (e) In Para 4.1.1 of Report No.3 of 2005, CAG has pointed out unfruitful expenditure of Rs.91.18 crore on the installation of Captive Power Plant (CPP) at Moonidih washery. The fact is that an agreement was signed between CIL & BHEL in April, 1987 for installation

and commissioning of 2x10 MW FBC boiler based CPP at a total expenditure of Rs.92.21 crore. The work was scheduled to be completed by November, 1990. BHEL failed to accomplish the job due to various factors. BHEL did not turn up to complete the left over jobs and a sum of Rs.9.843 crore has been kept withheld due to this reason.

(f) The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

**Schemes/ Programmes under National Rural Health Mission**

1258. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission has failed to achieve its target of selecting and training the accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Advisory Council has expressed concern over the slow pace of the scheme/ programmes under the Mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to implement them?

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

(b) Under the National Rural Health Mission, 2.5 lakh trained female Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) have to be selected in a phased manner in 10 States comprising eight EAG States, Jammu & Kashmir and Assam. Out of this, 40% of the total i.e. 1 lakh ASHAs are to be selected in year 2005-06. The time target for completion of the same is by the end of the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) A presentation was made by the Ministry at a meeting of the NAC. The NAC has given its comments and observations for making the mission more effective.

(e) The Ministry is finalizing an implementation plan for the NRHM which is inter alia addressing the comments and observations of the NAC.

[English]

**Scheme for Housing and Urban Development**

1259. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any effective scheme for Housing and Urban Development in North Eastern States, West Bengal and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of amount likely to be allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the target set for implementation of the scheme and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Shortage of Anesthetists**

1260. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether shortage of Anesthetists has been identified as one of the major causes of high maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to overcome the shortage of Anesthetists;

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Government for training the doctors in administering anesthesia in difficult deliveries, trauma cases, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) Shortage of Anaesthetists particularly in rural areas have been identified as one of the major bottleneck in operationalizing the First Referral Units for providing emergency obstetric care to the pregnant women.

(b) to (d) A short term, training programme of 18 weeks for MBBS doctors in life saving anesthetic skills for emergency obstetric care has been devised and the State Governments have been requested to identify the medical colleges for imparting training and also the First Referral Units where these trained doctors can be posted.

### III-effect of consumption of soyabean

1261. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of soya beans by the children and infants is injurious to their health as reported in The Pioneer, dated August 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any Committee of experts to examine it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to the information available with Indian Council of Medical Research, there are no studies indicating ill-effects of consumption of Soya Beans in children and infants.

### Floods in Major Cities

1262. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether major cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore were flooded due to heavy monsoon rains recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such floods in future; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken for major cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore:-

Mumbai: The Municipal Corporation, Greater Mumbai have forwarded a project Report on Storm Water Drainage Sewer Rehabilitation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1200 crore for consideration under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The proposal is under examination of the Government.

Chennai: As per the information received from State Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a Committee to suggest ways and means of ensuring quicker relief. The Committee is considering a series of proposals to inter-link micro-drains and waterways in the upper reaches inside the city so as to divert flood water to the other waterways where some carrying capacity is available. Also proposals are under active consideration for a system of providing flood banks/concrete walls in the waterways at selected structures to avoid the flood water backing up into the low laying areas and also to increase the width of the waterways in the downstream reaches wherever feasible to allow passage of more flood water. These schemes will be finalised after detailed engineering study and feasibilities are established.

Bangalore: The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike have submitted detailed project report for remodelling of primary and secondary Storm Water Drains in Bangalore City - Hebbal Valley at an estimated cost of Rs. 99.87 crore for consideration under the JNNURM. The proposal is under examination in accordance with guidelines of the Mission.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Mortality Rate of Children

1263. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the percentage of mortality rate of children between below 5 years of age in India is highest

in the world as published by 'Securing Rights' which prepared a report on Millennium Development Targets as reported in the Hindi daily Rashtriya Sahara dated September 19, 2005;

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

(c) the steps 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) and (b) The World Health Organization have published the 'World Health Report 2005' wherein details of under five mortality rate for various countries have been published. According to this report under five mortality rate for India was 87 per thousand live births in 2003. 47 countries have under five mortality higher than India. The details of the Report have been published in the daily Rashtriya Sahara dated 19.9.2005.

(c) Under the Reproductive Child Health Programme (RCH) being implemented in all States of the country, various interventions for reducing infant & child mortality and morbidity in children are being implemented. These include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of death due to diarrhoea and control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections. Health Care Workers have been trained in the diagnoses and management of pneumonia and diarrhoea. This is supplemented by the supply of Tab. Pediatric Cotrimaxazole for treatment of pneumonia and ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) for treatment of diarrhoea to the Health Workers in the Kit-A supplied to them under the RCH Programme. Essential New Born Care and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are also promoted in the community through Health Care Workers.

[English]

#### Facilities for Waste Management

1264. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the death of a doctor and several persons connected with medical college, Kottayam, due to Hepatitis and other diseases due to environmental hazards;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal of assistance from the Government of Kerala or Medical College, Kottayam district, regarding facilities for waste management;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government has not received any such report from Government of Kerala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### Making Available Drugs and Modern Technology

1265. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make available affordable drugs and modern technology to rural population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government proposes to take any steps to help in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under -5 Mortality Rate (MR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR);

(d) whether the Government has devised any measures to promote public investment in Health Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health and family welfare services in the rural areas are being provided through a network of Sub-centres; Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. In order to provide quality care in these centers, Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) are being prescribed to provide optimal care to the community and achieve and maintain an acceptable standard of quality care. Medicines are generally provided free of cost under the various National Health Programmes, which are under



implementation for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. In order to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices, the Government has been promulgating the Drugs (Prices Control) Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, from time to time.

(c) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which aims to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of population. The Mission provides an overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health & Family Welfare with (RCH-II being the flagship program. The Mission aims to bring down the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio and control all communicable diseases. Under the strategy of NRHM, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural health care is to be addressed through 2.5 lakhs Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to assist the Anganwadi Worker and ANM at village level to make the increased health services accessible to the rural people of the country. It is also proposed to upgrade 2000+CHCs to the level of Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) and creation of District Level Management Teams of Health for all districts. NRHM has been launched for a period of 7 years (2005-2012).

(d) and (e) Under the mandate of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, Health care is one of the 7 Thrust Areas, wherein it is proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years.

#### **Telecom Providers**

1266. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of telecom providers currently operational in India;

(b) whether some operators have foreign equity investments;

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

(d) whether some operators have 100% Indian equity; and

(e) if so, the details of equity including their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A list of major telecom service providers is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) According to the new FDI policy, the indirect FDI is also to be counted towards the Foreign Equity in the service provider. This information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Major Telecom Service Providers*

1. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
2. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
3. Bharti Cellular Limited
4. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.
5. Idea Cellular Ltd.
6. Aircel Digilink India Limited
7. Aircel Limited
8. BPL Cellular Limited
9. Spice Communications Limited
10. Reliance Telecom Limited
11. Hutchison Essar South Limited
12. Hutchison Essar East Limited
13. BPL Mobile Cellular Limited
14. Bharti Mobile Limited
15. Bharti Tele-Venture Limited
16. Reliance Infocomm Limited
17. Tata Teleservices Limited
18. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited
19. HFCL Infotel Limited
20. Bharti Infotel Limited

21. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
22. Hughes Escorts Communications Limited
23. Sify Limited
24. Estel Communications Private limited
25. Directed Internet Limited
26. Comsat Max Limited
27. Primus Telecommunications India Ltd.
28. HCL Infinet Limited
29. 121 Enterprise Limited
30. Pacific Internet India Pvt. Ltd.
31. Software Technology Parks of India
32. Dishnet Wireless Ltd.
33. Data Infosys Limited
34. Hathway Cable & Datacom Pvt. Ltd.
35. In2cable (India) Ltd.

#### Level Playing Field

1267. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any safeguards/precautions to ensure that any operator does not dominate market and retain an unfair advantage over new operators;

(b) if so, the safeguards/precautions taken in the case of the BSNL and the MTNL;

(c) the extent to which these measures have been successful; and

(d) the manner in which the TRAI is playing a role in maintaining level playing field to achieve this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Safeguards/precautions has been taken to ensure that any operator

does not dominate market and retain an unfair advantage over new operators. Some of such measures are as follows:

(i) BSNL and MTNL have published their reference inter-connection offers laying down various principles and elements involved in proper and effective inter-connection. The matter is subjudice.

(ii) TRAI has also issued interconnection Usage Charges Regulation which forms the basis for transit and termination charges. Following these, the new entrants have to pay usage based charges and can not be dominated to pay higher charges by significant market player.

(iii) While allowing intra circle merger and acquisition it has been stipulated that Merger of licences will be permitted subject to the condition that there are at least three operators in that service area for that service, consequent upon such merger.

(iv) Various service sectors have been opened up for unrestricted competition.

(v) Anti-competitive conducts like vertical price squeeze have been explicitly prohibited.

(c) The increase in subscriber base and fall in tariff indicate that such measures are successful.

(d) TRAI has played satisfactory role in creating a level play field to achieve the objectives.

#### Additional Capacity Created by BSNL

1268. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of additional capacity created by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last five years in Wireline, Fixed Wireless and Mobile Segments; and

(b) the cost of adding per line of Wireline Connection, Fixed Wireless Connection and Mobile Connection of BSNL network separately?

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

switching capacity created by BSNL in wireline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile segments during the last five years is given below:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

Sl. No.	Item	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Wireline capacity (lines)	6664850	6374761	3864090	1305324	794076
2.	WLL capacity (lines)	*	*	311500	1489450	465950
3.	Cellular Mobile capacity (lines)	*	*	2657140	2170811	4631203

\* BSNL WLL and Cellular Mobile Services were commissioned in 2002-03

(b) The estimated per line cost for wireline, WLL and Cellular Mobile connection in BSNL network is furnished below:

- (i) Cellular Mobile Connection = Rs. 5500/- (handset to be procured by subscriber)
- (ii) WLL = Rs. 9000/- (including the WLL handset)
- (iii) Wireline = Rs. 26000/-.

The costs indicated above are estimations only. The actual costs may vary depending upon a large number of factors which include existing network in terms of infrastructure, switching and transmission equipment at the time of project execution, demand and the pockets which are being covered by the conceived project. In addition, advancements in technology are gradually leading to network convergence due to which a large part of the network is being shared by the different access types such as wireline, WLL and Cellular Mobile.

[Translation]

**Alleged corruption in CIL**

1269. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption is allegedly rampant in the Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies;

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of additional switching capacity created by BSNL in Wireline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile segments during the last five years is given below:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to check it;

(c) the number of departmental proceedings and criminal cases pending against the officers of CIL and its subsidiary companies as on date;

(d) the details of officials who have been dismissed from the service alongwith those who have been retained; and

(e) the reasons for retaining such corrupt persons in service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, whenever reports of any corruption or irregularities are received, the same are got looked into by the Ministry/coal companies. The complaints are investigated through the vigilance wings of the coal companies which are headed by full time Chief Vigilance Officers. Advice of Central Vigilance Commission is also obtained in case any of the officers involved come in their jurisdiction.

(c) 185 criminal cases and 332 departmental proceedings are pending at different levels. Subsidiary-wise details of officers involved in such cases are given below:-

	ECL	BCCL*	CCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NCL	CMPDIL	CIL	Total
Criminal cases	11	92	42	12	11	4	5	7	1	185
Departmental proceedings	37**	55	136	34	40	21	6	-	3	332

\* 11 executives are common in both criminal & departmental case, thereby 136 executives are actually involved.

\*\* 1 officer is involved in 3 cases.

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

12.01 hrs.

**OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER**

**Re: Business of the House**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please give me one minute. As you are all aware, according to the procedure we have followed Calling Attention is taken up after the Question Hour. Today, some hon. Members felt very agitated because of a certain development somewhere. My only appeal has been to please let me know what it is that you want to discuss. At least give a notice. Suddenly some hon. Members rose in their seats without I am being told anything. I could not even follow what was happening. Does it help anybody?

I appeal to all of you, all the leaders and all the hon. Members. The House is yours and you have to raise important issues. How can we do it when there is not even a notice for suspension of Question Hour? There are certain matters which Mr. Malhotra wanted to raise and he told me that. We discussed it in the meeting also. In spite of my reservation, I have said that I would try to accommodate him. There are many important issues. I will try to accommodate everybody today, I can assure you, to the best of my ability. I need some cooperation from you so that your issues can be fully projected in the House. If you want to say something to the hon. Prime Minister - I cannot dictate him anything, you know very well - he has been present here. It is entirely for him to react. But the way it was presented I even do not know what is happening. Yesterday one issue was raised. I could understand that there was some dispute between two States. Is this the way to raise it? Please help me. Why should I stand in the way of raising an important issue before the House?

This is my earnest appeal. If you want the Calling Attention to come later I will do it after taking up what we call the 'Zero Hour'. Otherwise, I will take it up now. I will go by the consensus here. If you want that today important 'Zero Hour' mentions should be taken up first, I will do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to do that first?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I will come to that. Mr. Malhotra, you told me about this, although there is no notice here. But, may I take up Papers to be laid on the Table first? Give two-three minutes so that papers can be laid.

12.03 hrs.

**PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE**

[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 PACHOURI): 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 29 of the Right to Information Act, 2005:-

- (i) The Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 336 in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2005.
- (ii) The Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 649 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2005.
- (iii) The Central Information Commission (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 650 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2005.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 2897/2005]

(2) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 247 in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2005 under article 320 (5) of the Constitution of India.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2898/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homeopathy, 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 National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata, 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. L.T. 2899/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2900/2005]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): Mr. Speaker Sir, I place on the Table of the House a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the announcement made by the President of India on 24th November 2005 under part (2) of Article 356 of the Constitution regarding Bihar, in which

he has cancelled the previous announcement made by him on 7th March 2005 and which was published in the Gazette of India vide Notification No. GSR 685(a) dated 24th November 2005 under Article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 2901/2005]

12.04 hrs.

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

### BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Disaster Management Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th November, 2005."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Disaster Management Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2005.

12.04½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTION

#### *Fourteenth Report*

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.05 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

#### *Statement*

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcuta – North East): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the

statement showing Action Taken on the observations/recommendations contained in the 5th Report relating to the Action Taken on the recommendations of the Committee on Urban Development contained in their 2nd Report (14th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

12.05½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

### *Statement*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I place on the Table of the House a copy each (Hindi and English version) of the statements showing action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports submitted by the Standing Committee on Railways:

- (i) Seventh Report on the Demands for Grant for 2004-05 for the Ministry of Railways (14th Lok Sabha)
- (ii) Tenth Report on "Redressal of Public Grievances by the Indian Railways." (11th Lok Sabha)

12.06 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Thirteenth SAARC Summit, held on  
12-13 November, 2005 In Dhaka**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, I want to read the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, can you allow the Minister to read the statement?

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to read it. I would take only two or three minutes as it is on a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate.

He wants to read the statement because it is on an important matter.

SHRI E. AHAMED: It is in continuation of events of the previous Government and the present Government.

\*The Thirteenth SAARC Summit took place in Dhaka from November 12-13, 2005. India participated actively in both the preparations for the Summit as well as in its deliberations at Dhaka. The major achievements of the Summit are in consonance with India's objectives and provide new opportunities to further the process of regional economic integration in South Asia.

Members are aware that India has long argued that if South Asia is to become a dynamic component of the larger process of regional cooperation and globalization that is taking place in the world, it must first bring about economic integration amongst the member countries, as an essential pre-requisite. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh put forward a bold new vision of a SAARC, which is interconnected, where political divisions do not stand in the way of the free movement of peoples, goods and services and ideas, across our region. In this context, he offered, on a reciprocal basis, transit facilities to all countries of the region and also greater air connectivity through a virtual open skies arrangement. India took the lead in drafting a strong political message that there should be no delay in the operationalisation of the SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Area) Agreement.

Members would also be aware that India had taken a strong initiative to ensure the entry of Afghanistan as a new member of SAARC. The consensus decision taken by the SAARC Heads of State and Government to welcome Afghanistan as SAARC's eighth member is a major success for Indian diplomacy. With Afghanistan's entry, SAARC has acquired a more complete regional identity, and a country with which India has traditionally close and friendly relations is now a part of SAARC.

The Summit noted the renewed interest of other regional and international organizations, bodies and entities to cooperate with SAARC in fields of mutual interest. India has welcomed the interest shown by China as well as Japan to be associated with SAARC as Observers. We would welcome similar association with other interested countries as well. It has been agreed that

\*Also placed in Library, See No.L.T.2902/2005.

the Council of Ministers will decide the modalities in this regard in their 27th meeting to be held in July 2006.

Members would be happy to know that India's offer for hosting the SAARC Centre for Disaster Management and Preparedness has been welcomed and accepted by the Summit. This is an important development, considering the extensive loss of life and property due to natural disasters such as the Tsunami and earthquakes, which have affected our region during the past one year. There was a clear recognition that we need a permanent regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation. India's record and demonstrated capabilities in this regard helped in ensuring the success of our proposal to host the Centre in India. This Centre will be closely associated with the National Institute for Disaster Management in Delhi.

The proposal made by India for the setting up of a South Asia University that would bring together scholars, scientists and students from all over South Asia in a centre of excellence was welcomed enthusiastically. We will be preparing a Concept Paper in this regard for further consideration by the SAARC Heads of State and Government.

The Summit has also noted with appreciation some other important proposals made by India, such as the setting up of a Regional Food Bank, a Regional Tele-medicine Network, and the holding of a SAARC Car Rally in the run up to the 14th SAARC Summit, which will be held in India in the first quarter of 2007. We intend to develop these ideas further in close consultation with our SAARC partners.

A major theme at the Summit was cooperation in counter terrorism. It will be noted that there is a very strong condemnation of terrorism in the Summit Declaration and renewed commitment to eliminate this scourge, both from the region as well as from the world. For the first time, there is also a clear reference to avoid double standards in tackling this collective challenge. I would rate this also as a major achievement of the Summit, which is entirely in line with India's own foreign policy objectives.

The Summit was also notable for the signing of three very important trade facilitation agreements. This include:

- The Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters;

- The Agreement on the Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council;
- The Limited Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

With the implementation of these Agreements, regional economic cooperation within SAARC will receive a major boost.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are also a number of other decisions taken at the SAARC Summit and these may be seen in the Summit Declaration which is being placed on the Table of the House.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Thirteenth Summit was a landmark event which took place as SAARC enters the third decade of its existence. There was a strong sentiment amongst member countries that the time had come for us to move from a phase of declaratory and consultative processes to more practical and collaborative processes. India is a very strong advocate of collaboration in regional projects, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, poverty alleviation and dealing with cross border challenges such as natural disasters, pandemics like HIV AIDS and Avian Flu and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. I would like to assure members that in the months ahead, it would be our endeavour not only to implement some of the important decisions which have been taken at the Summit but to also promote practical, result-oriented collaborative projects amongst member countries. We want to ensure that when India hosts the next SAARC Summit in the first quarter of 2007, the stage would have been set for a significant upgradation in regional cooperation within SAARC and the first steps would have been taken towards establishing a truly free trade area in South Asia.

12.14 hrs.

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

[English]

- (1) **Re: Deteriorating law and order situation and killing of an MLA in Uttar Pradesh**

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice from the

hon. Member Shri Malhotra. Ordinarily, this is a State matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give all of you an opportunity. I know it is a sensitive matter. I respect everybody's sentiments. Please allow me to conduct so that your views can be recorded very strongly.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): We are such a disciplined lot that we always obey you.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes such sentiments prompt me to decide to continue here.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): We never do any such thing. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GPOAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker Sir, after Malhotraji, I may also be given an opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, a major tragedy has taken place. ...(Interruptions) Sir, please ask him to sit down. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: By this time, you are aware that you cannot speak from there. Even then you are disturbing. This habit should go. You have seen today that nobody can brow-beat me. You like me or not, that is a different thing. Please do not play those tactics.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request you to avoid any reference directly to the State Government.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, a major tragedy has taken place. B.J.P. legislator Shri Krishnanandji has been assassinated recently in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh. Seven more people were also killed with him. He was returning after inaugurating a cricket match with his cavalcade and he was pierced by bullets fired from an A.K.-47 rifle. The seven persons accompanying him have also been killed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not the question of party or

province. It is a major problem for the elected members also. Whether any person working for state or nation will be murdered and that too in this ghastly manner. It is a very serious issue. He had already expressed apprehension that there was threat to his life. He had repeatedly expressed his apprehension that he might be assassinated. He was receiving threats of murder. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, it is a serious matter.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is not only a law and order problem. You said that it is a law and order problem. It is not only a law and order problem; it is a communal problem also. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

In Mau such cases of murder have taken place earlier too. In those cases people belonging to a particular community were murdered.\* A good number of people has been killed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would see to it. Let me control.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please do not refer to any other matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader is speaking. He does not need your help. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please sit down.

I am requesting you, Prof. Malhotra to please do not refer to any other matter.

...(Interruptions)

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\* Not recorded.



MR. SPEAKER: I would see to it. It is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have no patience. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, What is wrong in that word? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...\*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the observations of Prof. Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you also please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you defy the Chair like this, I am sorry. Do not force me to take very unpleasant action. It has become a habit. I am trying to regulate. I have requested Prof. Malhotra not to refer to any other matter. He is a senior Member of the House; he is a responsible leader of this House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker Sir, please allow me also to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please wait and see what will happen and what will not?

[English]

You cannot dictate the Chair all the time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir it is not dictation. ...(Interruptions)

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\* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying this. You know very well. Your leader knows. You have no patience even to talk to your leader.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No doubt, it is a State matter but since an elected Member has been unfortunately killed, I have allowed him to speak. I said, try to avoid all the reference to the State so that I can get a response from Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav. He has expressed his views.

Prof. Malhotra, please be very brief and do not make any controversial reference.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know, you have raised a State matter, and I have to take notice of that.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Prior to this incident when the leaders of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samajwadi Party were assassinated we had condemned that also and expressed our sympathy. We have been saying since long that such things should not happen. But is it right to make such a pandemonium on assassination of a B.J.P. leader?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please restrict to that. Yesterday's incident is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I have allowed you, they are not to stop.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have termed it communal so that it may not turn into a communal incident and we should be concerned about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No minister from Uttar Pradesh Council of Minister is present here to reply to it.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter is taking communal colour. It is not such a case. Incidents relating to women or communal riots can be discussed here in the House. The Union Government also has a role in it and the Government will have to see that this matter also should not meet the fate of incidents occurred recently in Karnataka and Maharashtra. If this matter lingers on, it will take a communal twist and its fallout all over the country will be worse rather very worse. This should be kept in mind that the situation in Uttar Pradesh should not become like that of Bihar. Law and Order situation in Uttar Pradesh also should not deteriorate. There is need to pay attention towards this.

Mr. Speaker Sir, he has expressed apprehension of attempt on his life in the Assembly and demanded security but no action was taken. I raise this point here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you have raised it very effectively.

Shri Santosh Gangwar, Shri Chandrakant Khaire, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Shri B.K. Deo, Shri Ashok Pradhan and Dr. Rajesh Mishra have associated themselves with what Prof. Malhotra has said.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last two years. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal Shri Santosh Gangwar to please cooperate. We have got other matters to take. I have recorded all the names.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER : This will not do.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I have given this opportunity which is being misused by the Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter is related to Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, you please sit down. Your matter is about to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not waste your breath. Nothing, except that of Shri Ram Gopal, will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sadhuji, you should be a little bit disciplined.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Will you stop speaking? What are you doing? A swami is not following discipline. What are you doing? This is not being recorded. I have allowed all the names to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a mistake by allowing and you are misusing the opportunity given to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I made a mistake in believing and trusting you. I should not have trusted you. I made a mistake in trusting you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you control you Members please?

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\* Not recorded.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I will just now name you.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is for me to decide what I will do. You are not my adviser. Do not make the Parliament a fun. You have been acting funny.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GÓPAL YADAV: Sir, we deeply regret over the incident in Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)* It should be condemned to the utmost. *...(Interruptions)* I have talked to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh today. He has given assurance that if this matter is raised in the Parliament then should the Speaker so desire, he may constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Advani or some other senior leader from the Congress to find out how criminals gain entry into politics and how to stop them from doing so. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is quite objectionable. It is a BJP MLA who has been killed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not referred to the deceased MLA as criminal.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No other observation, except that of Shri Ram Gopal, is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to name you. I am sorry. You have been interrupting the House deliberately. I have been repeatedly requesting you to sit down. Is this the way?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? It is not being recorded. I have not given you the opportunity.

\* Not recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You will teach the others.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Only Shri Ram Gopal is allowed to speak. Please be brief. You have made an offer. It is all right.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I request to say that the statements made by the hon. Members\*

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is most objectionable. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it. It is not recorded. I have expunged it.

*...(Interruptions)*

Hon. Members, I have expunged that remark. Shri Ramgopalji, you are very sober Member. You are a very responsible Member. We all respect you.

Shri Malhotra, that is why, you would remember, I said this was the problem that I anticipated. Please do not convert this House into an Assembly. There is a State Assembly. I do not know whether it is in Session or not. This is a matter, I am sure,

*[Translation]*

They will raise this issue during the session.

*[English]*

It is always a matter of great concern.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary please. I want to express my great concern from this Chair, where you have all put me, saying that if

\* Not recorded.

any elected Member in this country, anywhere it may be, is killed, then it is a matter of serious concern. Now, because he wanted to raise it from that point of view, in spite of my greatest reservation, I allowed because an MEA has been killed — although I said to Ramgopal ji that he was not representing the Uttar Pradesh Government and Shri Ramgopal ji has expressed his views. He has made an offer to set up a Committee which is not for me to decide.

Now, since this chapter is over, I am requesting you all that there are many other important issues to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta — North East): Sir, he has not finished his submissions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has finished his submissions and now I would like to appeal to all sections of the House, 'please listen to each other. Please listen to the Chair.' I have no personal issue, no personal matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will we not be allowed to speak? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendraji, I can only say that it is very unfortunate. It seems I cannot trust anybody in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will only the BJP speak on this issue? ...(Interruptions) Are only you people going to speak? ...(Interruptions) If you give this murder a communal slant, are we supposed to keep silent? ...(Interruptions) What does it mean?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendraji, this is showing the greatest discourtesy to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We never rise ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, you are

showing the greatest discourtesy. Please remember you are one of the members in the Panel of Chairmen.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What does it mean to be on Panel of Chairman? Does it mean we will not make ourselves heard? ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wish to say that I regret it. ...(Interruptions) You do what you like. But whoever is involved in this incident, whether he belongs to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or anywhere, he will not go scot free. ...(Interruptions) It would be wrong on the part of these people to call it communalism. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramgopal ji, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Everyone knows that when Golu was kidnapped in Patna. ... (Interruptions) People from Bihar are present here. ...(Interruptions) Whose name had figured at the time? ...(Interruptions) I do not want to name the person who was said to be involved in the kidnapping of Gulu. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I want to put forward the opinion of my party on this issue. I request that we should also be given time to speak on the issue. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, it is a simple thing that if a Member asks for security cover then the security cover should be provided to him so as to ensure that no such incidents takes place. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If this is the way you are misusing the opportunity, then I will delete everything from the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow any further discussion on this issue. No further comment will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

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\* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? For whose sake are you doing this? Are you behaving this way for the people of this country?

...(Interruptions)

12.29 hrs.

(ii) **Re: Reported shifting of proposed site of National Institute of Science from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata**

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I would like to raise a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down when the leader of your party is speaking. All your names are here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I would like to bring to the notice of the Government as to how a State is being neglected and ill-treated by the Government of India. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying my best to control the proceeding of the House, but you all are becoming Deputy Speakers.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want your help.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, I object it. When Shri Malhotra was speaking just now he had said that a Bihar-like situation would arise there. ...(Interruptions) What did he intend to say? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The State of Bihar is under their control now.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: A Bihar-like situation will arise. ...(Interruptions) Where does Bihar come into this? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into records and if any disparaging remarks have been made, I will remove that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to adjourn the House and no Member's matter will be taken up. Please control yourself. You have to help each other also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh, please go back to your seat before opening your mouth.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, during the NDA regime in the year 2003, the Union Government had decided to establish four Regional Centres of Studies in Integrated Science at Bhubaneswar, Pune, Allahabad and Chennai. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very sad day for Parliament. You all are senior Members. They are responsible leaders. They seem to show responsibility and the only responsibility is to make this House a place of fun!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It was communicated through the Chairman, UGC vide their letter dated 23rd July, 2003. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have got your matter with me. At the appropriate time, you may speak. Please wait till then.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Accordingly, the Government of Orissa had gone ahead and identified 75 acres of land for the purpose at Bhubaneswar. In the past, Orissa has never been favoured with either an IIT or IIM or any other Central University. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not discuss here. This is not the place to discuss among yourselves. If you have to discuss anything among yourselves, please go outside. This is not your drawing room.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now the present UPA Government at the Centre has decided to set up two centres of National Institute of Science for Educational Research at Pune and Kolkata in the Eastern Zone replacing Bhubaneswar. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not Bhubaneswar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. You will have your say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, why are you so impatient? They are entitled to make their observations. You cannot interrupt him. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is giving incorrect information and misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to correct it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, if Members from your Party do not cooperate, then I will go to the next subject. I am appealing to all the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): If he says that it is being shifted from Bhubaneswar, what is the harm? He has not mentioned anything against him... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am only helping him. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, we are not allowed to place our demand.

MR. SPEAKER: Who is not allowing you? I am allowing you to speak. I have called Shri Tripathy to speak and I am asking them to stop interrupting him. But you are interrupting your own Party Member. What is all this going on here?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting Shri Acharia not to interrupt. If you want to respond, I will give you an opportunity at an appropriate time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, newspaper reports also have appeared stating that the Institute is now getting shifted from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata. This has agitated the students, teachers, intellectuals and the general public of Orissa. Student unrest has arisen now in Orissa. A peaceful State like Orissa is in turmoil now because of this decision of the Government.

Sir, they are ill-treating Orissa. In the past also, they have ill-treated Orissa. For whatever period they were in the Centre, they have never favoured Orissa. Now, they are taking away what we have got during the NDA regime by shifting it from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata. Now, as a State, Orissa does not have a single Central Institute. This is the only Institute which we have got during the NDA regime. The State Government has also identified 75 acres of land for the purpose. Our Chief Minister has written three letters to the hon. Prime Ministers but those have not yielded any result. Why this is happening to the State of Orissa? ... (Interruptions) Are we not a part of India? Do we not belong to this country? This House should know the type of sacrifices Orissa has made for the country. ... (Interruptions) We were the last State to have come under the British rule. But we were the first State to have fought against the British for Independence. And this is the price we are getting now! We, the Oriyas, declared the war of independence against the British much before "Sepoy Mutiny" of 1857 and we had sacrificed our lives. Many Oriyas had been hanged. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please refer to the subject. You have made your point.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Even after Independence, the entire nation is gaining from Orissa. If only Orissa decides, some portion of the country will continue to be in darkness. We are supplying coal, iron-ore and other minerals to the whole country. ... (Interruptions) We are helping in the nation-building process. ... (Interruptions) And this is the treatment which we are getting!

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not speak like this. This is not fair, Shri Tripathy. You have appropriately raised the matter. You have reasonably told about the National Institute of Science.

I believe all States are claiming for this. Naturally, the Government should consider this. But I cannot direct the Government. Do not issue such threats. It is against national unity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I respect your sentiments. I fully respect your sentiments.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that both the States, West Bengal and Orissa, have cordial relations. They are creating ill feeling between the two States. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not between two States.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am supporting you from the Chair and you do not understand it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mining is done in Orissa but the corporate office is functioning in Kolkata or elsewhere.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy, do not do this. Do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members tell me, whose statement will be recorded. Should it be Shri Satpathy's statement or Shri Tripathy's statement?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I am completing. ...(Interruptions) We went to meet the hon. Prime Minister for requesting a financial package for Orissa. Do you know what he told when all the Members of the State of Orissa went to meet him? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The hon. Prime Minister has said that money is not growing in tree. This is the kind of reply we are getting from the hon. Prime Minister with regard to a State which is extending all help to nation building. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am, through you, requesting that this Government should honour hon. Chief Minister's letters. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. I promise to call you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Due to this a peaceful State like Orissa is in turmoil. ...(Interruptions) The Government of India should decide that. The institute will start functioning immediately in Orissa. ...(Interruptions) In the last Session also we raised this issue. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assured us that he will bring the matter to the notice of the Minister concerned. But nothing has happened. They have not replied anything. They have not replied to me. They have not informed this House anything. Now, the hon. High Court of Orissa has given a stay. ...(Interruptions) They have informed the High Court that this was not the decision of the Union Government. The letters are with us. The Chief Minister's letter is with us. The UGC's letters to the Chief Minister and to the Utkal University are with us. They are telling that this has not been decided. ...(Interruptions) If they take a political decision like this, naturally the people of Orissa will raise their voice against this and very serious disturbance would occur there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, you have made your point very forcefully.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The hon. Leader of the House is present here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): We demand a statement from the Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy, Shri Arjun Sethi, Smt. Archana Nayak, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Shri B. Mahtab, Shri Brahmananda Panda, Shri Sugrib Singh, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will be noted as having

associated with the matter raised by Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I have something to add to what my friend Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy has stated on the floor of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the procedure. You know that very well. But I am allowing you to speak. Only you can speak, not everybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa had written three letters to the hon. Prime Minister of India. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy has already stated this. This is nothing new.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: They have not replied anything to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: On the other hand, an officer from the Ministry of Human Resource Development had appeared before the hon. High Court of Orissa and filed an affidavit saying that no decision has been taken. This is not true. The letters are with me. Whatever letters the UGC had written to the Vice Chancellor of the Utkal University are with me. When the letter has already been written to the Vice Chancellor of the Utkal University, how can this Government or that officer can say that no decision had been taken? This is something contrary to the letter that had been written to the Government of Orissa.

The hon. Leader of the House is present here. The hon. Prime Minister is not present here, but the Leader of the House is present here. He should respond to our queries as to when this particular Institute, that is the National Institute of Science will be established in the State of Orissa. Instead of denying anything to the State of Orissa, they should consider it favourably.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, please. Mr. Sethi, all

your colleagues, all my valued colleagues from your State were all very...

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please listen to me? I am helping you. I have said about your demand. I am not saying that it is not legitimate. You have made a legitimate demand. What I am trying to request all the hon. Members, all sections of the House, is that there is an attempt nowadays to have one State against the other.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. Mr. Tathagata, this is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said that. I have not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow it to be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia or Mr. Salim, who will speak?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to any internal or any inter-State matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, do you want to speak? Or, who wants to speak?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force anybody. You know it very well. Why do you not take your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to decide now that if any Member defies me, whatever he has said will be expunged.

\* Not recorded.



...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the hon. CM has already written but there is no response to our CM's request. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the fourth time it has been recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seat. Do not behave in this irresponsible manner.

...(Interruptions)

12.42 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Tathagata Satpathy and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: A number of times in this particular august House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way you are behaving? Is this your party, Mr. Tripathy? Is this the way?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: ...*(Interruptions)* They should comply. They should respond to our query. This is our request, through you, to the hon. Leader of the House. He is present here. We request you should respect. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have committed a breach of your undertaking to me. I have allowed what I said. You have committed a breach of your undertaking. You gave an undertaking to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: No undertaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You did give.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: No undertaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You did give. You did give that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: We have seen in this House how things are happening. This is the only time that we have raised our voice. No other time have we made anything mess in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.V. Bellarmin.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: This is the only time. The hon. Leader of the House is here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sad about this House, the future of this Parliament of India. You are all trying to destroy the very fabric. You think that you are scoring points. You think that you are scoring points in your State. That is your only objective. It is a shame. You are behaving in a shameful manner.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The Leader of the House is here. At least, respect the sentiments. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the harm. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin, sit down

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin, I am asking you to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You want this. No, I will not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. Go on.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: ...*(Interruptions)* The Members of Orissa State Legislative Assembly, including the Congress Members, have resented the decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is not the question between the two States. ...*(Interruptions)* West Bengal has a very cordial relation with Orissa. The Bengalis have a traditional relation with the people of Orissa. Sir, we also want that if a National Institute of Science is sanctioned in Kolkata, we have no objection. We also do not want that the State of Orissa should be deprived of a National Institute of Science. We want development of Orissa. We are not against the development of Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the case. This is not the case of replacing or shifting from one place to another place from Bhubaneshwar to Kolkata. Kolkata has got a National Institute of Science.

Sir, as regards Bhubaneshwar, if it was decided by the earlier Government, we are not against that. Bhubaneshwar should also get a National Institute of Science. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Basu Deb Acharia's version will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Bhubaneshwar should also get a National Institute of Science. We have no objection to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I thank you very much. Please sit down now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Shri Tripathy refers to shifting the Institute from Bhubaneshwar to Kolkata. It is not a question of shifting from Bhubaneshwar to Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a case of shifting the Institute. Do not say so. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have made your position clear. You are not asking for shifting. It is being cleared. It has been recorded.

*... (Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Bhubaneshwar should also have a National Institute of Science. We have no objection to that. ...*(Interruptions)* You people should not say that it is a case of shifting or replacing from Bhubaneshwar to Kolkata. Why are you people saying so? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, he has raised an issue. He says one thing.

MR. SPEAKER: He has made his point.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: One thing that Bhubaneshwar had. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

I am not saying so. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force him to respond. I am sorry.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Leader of the House is here. He can assure the House that it will not be removed from Bhubaneshwar. That is the only question we raise. Let him say so. How can it be done like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Leader of the House, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow it unless they go back to their seats.

*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, unless you go back to your seats, I will not allow him to speak. He will not answer.

*... (Interruptions)*

12.47 hrs.

*(At this stage. Shri Tathagata Satpathy and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You come and sit here and decide.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you can ask for my removal and sit here. Let me see what you do.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is entirely for you to respond. I will not force you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes. At the outset, I would like to say that I was not privy to what transpired in your Chamber. I did not have any notice saying that they would be going to raise this issue. Had I known, surely I would have come prepared with the facts and I would have enlightened the House.

As the hon. Members have raised this issue, I have listened to them. Surely, I will ascertain the facts and I will inform the august House, through you, Sir. But most respectfully, I would like to submit that just to have an instant response from the Leader of the House - without even keeping him informed of what they are going to raise - would be difficult. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting? Please go back to your seat. Even school children are most responsible! It is quite disgusting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You cannot do that. I am on my legs. Please do not disturb me. ...(Interruptions) I have not disturbed them when they were speaking. Hon. Members, when I am responding, you are disturbing me. You asked me to speak. I did not volunteer to speak. Your Members asked me to speak. Prof. Malhotra asked me to respond. Suddenly, you are disturbing me.

Therefore, most respectfully, I would like to submit this thing. I raised this point last year also. If the hon. Members expect a response from me, they should also send a copy of the notice to me which they are sending to others or sending to the Chair seeking the permission of the Chair. Then, I could come prepared with the facts even in the shortest possible time available to me. I simply sit here to show respect to the House. That should not compel me to respond instantly like instant coffee. It is not simply possible for me to respond. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he would find out and later make a statement here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already told you. Prof. Malhotra, it is not fair. You are in the habit of putting words into my mouth. I told you that I would ascertain the facts and I would come and respond to you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.49 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at six  
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

14.06½ hrs.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) **Situation arising out of shortage of LPG in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Calling Attention. Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of shortage of LPG in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, with your permission, I lay the statement on the table of the House.

\*Sir, LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. A temporary shortage of LPG emerged in September, 2005 on account of various factors. PSU production in the period April-September, 2005 was 303 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonne) less than planned; Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) production was 190 TMT less than planned. In consequence, physical inventories with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) declined from 333 TMT at the beginning of April, 2005 to 190 TMT at the beginning of October, 2005. Then, with effect from 4th October, 2005, RIL, the single largest domestic supplier of LPG, shut down their Fluidized Catalytic Cracker (FCC) unit at Jamnagar for maintenance work. Moreover, at just about the same time, as RIL confirmed its shut down effective October, 2005, domestic production prospects were seriously impacted by the fire in Mumbai High North and global LPG supplies became tight, largely on account of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on US refineries. All these factors put together upset the plans made by OMCs to effect imports in time to offset the anticipated shortage in supplies. This fed rumours in the market that OMCs would not be able to meet the demand, leading to a sudden spurt in demand. There was also a strike in bottling plants in the National Capital Territory (NCT) area towards the end of September, 2005 which aggravated the situation.

The Ministry took matters in hand early in October, 2005 when it was decided that through a combination of inventory management and imports, directly handled by a composite task force of the OMCs under the close supervision of the Government, physical shortages of supply would be overcome as quickly as possible. It was also decided that bottling plants in the NCT area would work on Sunday, 9th October and other holidays. On the basis of these decisions, it was announced that the physical shortage in the NCT area would end by Dusshera and substantively in the rest of the country by Deepavali. These objectives have been largely achieved. In addition to the arrangements made earlier by OMCs to import 642 TMT of LPG during the period October-December, 2005, arrangements have been made to import an additional quantity of 237.9 TMT during this period, of which 138

TMT has already reached the country. Thus, the overall physical shortage in the country at present has been reduced to only about 1.5 per cent of the average monthly consumption of LPG. However, the backlog at the micro-level may vary from market to market on account of operational reasons.

The situation is expected to normalize further by the end of November, 2005 on the restoration of production in RIL's refinery. Moreover, while OMCs are striving to ensure supplies to distributors in accordance with the registered customer strength of the distributor, the active cooperation of State Governments is required to cap, reduce and eventually eliminate the diversion of domestic LPG to the black market and unauthorized use which takes place on account of the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG. The Union Government in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has alerted State Governments to the imperative need to curtail diversion and other malpractices by enforcing the control orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. OMCs have also been directed to ensure adherence to Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001.

In view of the temporary LPG shortage, OMCs had restricted the release of new connections effective September, 2005 but, in view of the improvement in the situation, they have accepted the Ministry's request to resume the release of new connections from 1st December, 2005.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that I as well as the whole House would disagree with the statement made by the Petroleum Minister. The main reason for that is that he has said in the statement that the shortage has been going on since September. We have seen that the gas shortage has been continuing since the last session. At that time also a question had been raised and you had replied with great enthusiasm that the situation was improving and that there would be no shortage of gas. We have seen that there has been no improvement in the situation. Even during the last session the black marketing of Gas Cylinders was going on. Non-availability of gas cylinders and hike in the price of a gas cylinder as high as Rs. 600 is not a good thing. This is the position since the time you have taken over as

\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2903/2005

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

the Minister. You see, they are used to bring old permit raj in place. That is why the gas cylinders have become costly. Women living in rural areas feel the pinch particularly. The whole budget of women belonging to middle class gets upset if they don't get the gas cylinders in time. How will a family with a monthly income of three thousand or four thousand manage to shell out Rs. 600 per a gas cylinder? How will they manage their families if they have to spend 1/4th of the income on gas cylinders?

I want to draw your attention towards the "Rashtriya Sahara" of 17 November, 2005. The hon. Petroleum Minister has said that the women should reduce their expenditure on saree by hundred rupees. It is shameful. He is giving suggestion to the women but not effecting improvement in his own department. He said that the subsidy provided on a gas cylinder can be brought in order if the women can reduce their expenditure on their saree by just hundred rupees. The All India Democratic Women Association has taken objection to the statement given by the Union Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to deal with the LPG crisis and increasing oil prices. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar told that the LPG crisis can be overcome if the women can bring down their budget on sarees and films by just one hundred rupees and divert the amount towards LPG. The women have opposed it. Thus, poverty and women have been put to ridicule. The women have tears in their eyes and the hon. Minister wants to torture them instead of wiping out their tears. Do you want to see the poor man die of utter misery? You always speak of conducting raids in this regard whenever session is held. Last year during the session he said that he conducted raids here and there. I have a reply to the unstarred question where he had said that the situation has improved. Even during the June-July session, he had said that the situation was completely under control then. Even now he is saying that there is no shortage since September. The factual situation regarding LPG is not so. Quota permit raj and subsidy is the main reason behind it. He does not want to provide subsidy and that was the main reason behind the shortage and black marketing of gas cylinders. You do not want to take up the cases, in particular, where big cylinders are used by the people running roadside dhabas. You want to divert attention from the calling attention motion regarding what has been published today in the newspapers in Delhi. The situation is not going to improve in this manner. The hon. Minister is a scholar, intelligent and quite skilful in using words but

now the country is not going to fall into the word-trap. It is his duty and he should control it. I have the Chairman's statement with me. He had taken a decision, which has appeared in the current newspaper, that no new gas connections will be provided before commencement of the new year. But, the Minister says that he is going to improve the situation, i.e. the situation will improve from the first of this month. He should make it clear whether he is going to provide new connections from the new year i.e. after first January. He is not aware how much suffering have the people been undergoing while waiting for the new connections. Families grow, marriages take place, families get split into smaller ones. In this situation, one can understand how much troublesome it would be to do without the new connections. But, the hon. Minister seems to have no worries on this account. Would you like to provide new connections from the coming first, i.e. from tomorrow? Would you make an announcement that sufficient number of new connections would be provided? During NDA Govt.'s rule, people got new connections immediately. Whenever brothers fought with each other and one moved to a new place, then he could take a cylinder immediately and make use of on his gas stove. What the present regime has done is putting the stove itself on fire. Now, a situation has arrived in which this Govt. itself is burning his fingers. I want to warn and urge upon this government that this situation in the country must be improved. The public will not forgive them if they fail to do that. All this has happened due to their policy. This situation has been created as a result of the policy forced upon by you and the quota and permit fixed by you. If needed, then they should import the gas cylinders in sufficient quantity. Nobody has stopped them from importing and in anyway because even otherwise they import. Only because of the policy of not giving subsidy, thousands of people have been forced to do without cooking gas. I would like to ask whether he would like to amend his statement and improve the situation? Would he care to improve the future situation? He did not provide gas connections at the time of festivals like Diwali and Dussehra but will he make arrangements to provide them atleast on the occasion of Christmas i.e. on 25th December, or not? That is my question to him.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a specific question as to what the hon. Minister is likely to do after this statement, whether he is going to improve the policy and decrease the price of gas cylinder? Now these prices

are increasing but how they are going to control the increase in the prices in the black market. Through you, I want a reply to these questions from the hon. Minister.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please seek clarifications.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, in the Statement given by the hon. Minister, it is said that several factors are responsible.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not make a long speech, you have only put the question.

[English]

Shri Rupchand Pal, I request you to put specific questions and not to make a speech.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall ask specific questions. Just I am framing the questions.

In the Statement, the hon. Minister has mentioned about several factors. There was less production by the PSUs and less production by RIL, the biggest supplier. There are many other factors which he has mentioned. What I want to know is this. If the Government anticipated its shortage, what was the quantum of shortage that had been anticipated? I am asking this because in our country 5.5 crore LPG cylinders are being used in a month. It was anticipated by various others that there was going to be an acute shortage to the tune of 40 lakh to 50 lakh cylinders but the Government did not take any steps. Instead, the Government ordered to check its diversion. The diversion from subsidised LPG meant for the domestic consumption to the commercial sector such as eating establishments, automobiles, etc. is always there. The black-marketing is always there. Still the Government has issued this Order. I want to know why the Order was timed at such a time? Was there any special with regard to the diversion? Restriction in the number of refill available with the LPG distributors to the customer base in his area, ceiling, stoppage of new connections — all these created the crisis. In a situation of crisis, black-marketing and diversion would always thrive. What was the rationale behind this Order? What was the new thing in the situation? They admitted the failure of the mechanism to stop diversion.

I come to my last question. The Government took the decision for import when they knew that internationally the shortage crisis was there following the US Rita Katrina hurricane, hike in the freight rates, non-availability of ships and the channels. In such a situation, the PSUs were grumbling that they had to bear heavy loss for the subsidy. In such a situation, why did the Government come out with such an Order? Was it under the pressure from the concerned bodies who were grumbling for the heavy loss or to cater to some other need? Otherwise, they knew fully well that there is going to be shortage, there has been diversion, and there has been black-marketing. There was a mechanism which was to be reviewed and rectified. But the Government came out with the Order which only created more crisis than solving it. This is my point. Why did the Government do that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudhangshu Seal, you only seek clarifications.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta, North-West): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his Statement, has stated that the black-marketeers would be dealt with firmly.

So, within this period, how many cases have been recorded in his Department? Secondly, there is a very big complaint that the weight the consumer is supposed to get they are not getting. They are getting less weight. There is a very big racket by some people who are playing all these games. So, what action the Government is going to take against them? It is because the fellow consumers are suffering for quite a long time.

Thirdly, the LPG cylinders meant for domestic use are being used by the Dhabas, restaurants and all these people. So, in his statement he has stated that regular checking and monitoring has been done but I doubt whether it has been really done or not. It is because still we notice that all these Dhabas and restaurants are using freely the cylinders. We do not know and we do not find any reason as to where from they are getting these supplies. So, there must be a racket between the distributors and all these big consumers resulting in serious sufferings of the consumers. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action his Department has taken against this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Yogi Aditya Nath, you raise only clarification.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the UPA Government came to power at the centre, its intentions are not good, then how can its policy be good. In the last one and half years. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am only referring to the point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: As per rules, a Member cannot give two Calling Attention notices at the same time on the same day. Now he is raising two Calling Attention motions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is not to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...**[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. What you say would not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What you say will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: It's a matter concerning public interest. You please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* The matters concerning public interest could be raised here not once but ten times also. Hon. Speaker will decide this, the B.A.C. will decide this. How can you decide it? Who has given you this right? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me. This Calling Attention has been raised by Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar and not by Yogi Aditya Nath. This was not raised by Yogi Aditya Nath.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: When it is the turn of the leftists, then why do you keep quite?

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: He has given the permission, then why are you speaking?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): He was raising an issue of rule. It is a very important point. There is a hue and cry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no hue and cry. I have heard him. I have given my ruling.

Now, Yogi Aditya Nath can speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: The permission is given by the Chair. He has given the permission. He has announced his name. The Chair has given the permission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: He has raised a point of order on a very valid ground.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: What is the point? There is no point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

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\* Not recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: There can be no point of order on the decision of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, I was saying that when the intention is not good, then how can any policy be good? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It must be corrected. It should not be repeated. It will make a precedent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: It is not that. Rule book should be adhered to. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the ruling. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: He is challenging the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Adityaji, you please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: This Government has effected an increase of about Rs. 50/- in the price of the LPG cylinder in the last one and half years. The policies of this Government are pro-black-marketeers and anti consumers. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): What is the question? He is supposed to ask question. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: You are not to decide. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not to decide, I will decide. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: You are not to decide as to who will ask question. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chair will decide that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): He has used unparliamentary words too. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): It should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two things have come to the fore very quickly and that has not find a mention in the statement given by the hon. Minister. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry has reduced the quota of LPG to half? Generally a family used to get one LPG cylinder in 15-20 days during the NDA regime. ... *(Interruptions)* If the leftist members keep on disturbing me like this, we will also not let them speak. If the order of the House is to be maintained like this, then we also know how to create disorder. We know better as to how to give a more befitting reply. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ask them to keep silent. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, when such type of persons come here, they indulge in creating disorder in the House. These people need to be made cultured. They should be given directions in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

\* Not recorded.



SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, his saying so is objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Yes, Sir, I have said. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: What is the need of a cylinder to a Sadhu like you? ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: ...\* You can't have knowledge of India's traditions. You can't have knowledge about India. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see to it. If there is any objectionable that I will expunge.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Without any advise, I have already said that I will see.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded except Shri Yogi.

*(Interruptions)\*\*...*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, two things have come to the fore. As I have said earlier also that the NDA Government had decided to give a gas cylinder to a family in every 15 to 20 days but this Government has increased this period to 40 days. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this is a right thing?

The second part of this question is that whether the Ministry has directed the various gas companies to bear the subsidy on gas cylinder which was hitherto borne by the Government. This is the reason that the gas companies are not supplying gas cylinder in time. Presently there is acute shortage of LPG for the household use and that is the main reason for this. I want to know from the hon. Minister on these two points.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\*\* Not recorded.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this question was raised in this House in the last Session also. While replying to the question raised by us, the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had said ill the end:

"It is necessary for my Ministry to monitor the situation as well and I have to come back to the House by the next Session with a clarification as to what further is being done in this regard."

I would like to know the steps taken by the Ministry as he assured the House when this question was raised. At that point of time in the month of August, the crisis was confined to only three to four States. Today, there is an acute crisis all over the country. This is because of unforeseen shutdown of certain refineries. They had allowed them to reduce production. When there is a peak demand, during the festive season, they had reduced the production. Some of the refineries, both in the public and the private sectors reduced their production in September, 2005. This was coupled with the planned shutdown of 45 days.

The hon. Minister has also in his statement stated that in the private refinery at Jamnagar, there was a shutdown of a unit for maintenance work from October 4, 2005. Such shutdown was always allowed in the past only in the lean period, not in the peak period. It was allowed only from February to April. So, why was such a shutdown and reduction in production allowed when the demand for LPG was growing?

The idea of regulating supplies to the consumers in the festive season also to suit one company was done. The planned shutdown by a major supplier, Reliance, appears to be a case of misplanned supply management for inescapable reasons, which needs to be investigated. I hope, the hon. Minister would, while replying, clarify the position.

Why had there been a coincidental nature of unforeseen breakdown of LPG producing plants? Why was the peak period chosen to allow the shutdown? He should also clarify the reason for allowing the most unplanned shutdown in October and November, in the peak period. Why did the Government allow that?

There is an acute shortage today also and while replying to the debate, he assured the House that he would take certain concrete measures in regard to diversion of LPG for other purposes. I would like to know what concrete measures the Government has taken within these three months to reduce the diversion of LPG for other purposes.

Today one cylinder of LPG is being sold at Rs. 500/- or even more than Rs. 500/- or Rs. 600/-. So, what concrete measures has the Government taken/proposed to be taken to curb these malpractices and also the diversion of LPG for other purposes for which it is not meant? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: See, as per rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir when hon'ble member Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has not given a notice, he should not be given an opportunity to speak on it and we should not start a new tradition by giving him an opportunity to speak in House in such a manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, you are not a deciding authority. The Chair has to decide to whom the time is to be given.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, as per the rules, I have given a notice. If the Chair allows I can ask a clarificatory question. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if you allow me only then I can ask the question. I have not violated any rule. I have given a notice as per the rules. So, if you allow me, I will speak; otherwise I will not speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I have given the notice only after studying the rules. I have studied the rules and given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)* Yogi

Aditya Nath, you have done an irregular thing. I have done a regular thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: See, generally, the practice is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are very well aware of the practice in general that no member other than those whose names figure in the list are permitted to speak. But since subject in question relates to the whole country, I want to allot time for seeking clarifications only to those members whose notices have been received. However, it will be on a condition that they will be confined only to clarifications. If they start delivering lecture, I shall stop them in the middle. In view of the importance of the matter, I allot time to seek clarification to those hon'ble members, who have given notices.

*[English]*

First of all, I will request Shri N.N. Krishnadas — Not present. Now, I call Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, with all humililty, I submit that I will speak only as per the rules. I have sufficiently given the notice in advance. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, the LPG shortage is very acute in Southern States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In Northern States also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, and particularly in my State Kerala. Now, the acute becomes so acute because of the emergence of cars using LPG. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, automobiles are using LPG instead of petrol.

Pollution can be prevented by using LPG and hence the automobiles have come into the picture. LPG is needed not only for household usage but here we have come across a good number of automobiles coming into the field, including autorickshaws. Quite naturally there will be a shortage. Here, the Government will have to take preventive steps, preventive steps in the sense that there must be some regulation, some regulatory method for giving a fair supply to the consumers, especially the household people and then to automobiles. First priority

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

should go to our women in the household. They want it because the firewood is very costly and it is not available. Previously we were using it. But now it is not available. Most of our women rely on this gas. Cooking can be done only through this process. The demand has increased too much. The demand has not only increased but at the same time the automobiles are also coming into the picture. So, the shortage will become acute.

Incidentally, I may tell you that we were given some coupons in the previous House and we used to issue them for priority allotment. Nowadays you are not doing it. They are not with me now. At any rate, the LPG supply is becoming very very short. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly intervene in the matter and take preventive measures so that there will be no shortage of supply of LPG in the market.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, although the Hon'ble Minister will give a good reply and he will satisfy all the members, yet the fact before us is that the number of LPG connections provided in the last 50 years equals to those provided during last six years. After that the people forgot to get registered and gas cylinders were delivered at their residence by rikshaw. As Basu Deb Acharia was telling that there is shut down every year. It is not that this has not been done only this year. The assurance given by Hon'ble Minister during the last session, has not been implemented yet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that such occasion may come again that the people may forget to be registered, as the members, too, began to ask for that. As I had told you yesterday that there is a need to get distribution of book-let started, because the people are asking us for the same. As Yogi Aditya Nath said, it appears that some flaw has crept into the policy. We do not want your answer, what we want is that there should not be such a demand of cylinders again, as is seen at present. I feel that an assurance in two lines in this regard by you will be more meaningful.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, it has become a common practice that LPG distributors give the gas cylinders illegally to hotels and also to automobile owners and the ultimate sufferers are the household consumers. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this has come to his notice and whether any action has been taken against these LPG distributors who are doing this illegally.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, because of the shortage, now there is an apprehension that the household LPG connections which have already been given are going to be withdrawn also. I do not know whether that is true or not. In some areas there is an apprehension that under the guise of having two connections in the same house – it is not one person having two connections, but may be several persons having different connections - the household people are now given notices but they are made to surrender one of the connections which they have. They are not legal notices. It may not be that one person is having more than one connection. Is there any rule or regulation that one person should not have more than one connection? Is it legal? I do not think it is legal. But, if it is being done, that must be clarified. As has already been submitted, in several States the shortage is too acute.

In Kerala, the shortage has become very acute. Unless immediate steps are taken, there will be a very big hue and cry. So, I urge upon the Minister to clarify as to what action will be taken in this regard.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): My question to the hon. Minister is this. Is it a fact that the Government is going to allow the oil producing companies like ONGC, GAIL, OIL to sell 25 per cent of their produce as LPG not on the Government determined price but on the market price for non-domestic use? If that be so, is it not a covert way of raising the price of the Government cylinder?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Now, my State is facing very acute shortage of LPG. Felling of trees is completely banned in my State and in some other parts of our country. That is required for the country. I do not dispute that thing. Where will the people get fuel from when there is shortage of LPG? Why is this happening? The country was flooded with LPG during NDA regime. There was nobody requiring it and Members of Parliament's coupons were not considered necessary. Now, what has happened after the Government has changed? To encourage black-marketing, an artificial shortage has been created. So, what are the steps the Government is taking? People will have to cook their food. If you do not provide them LPG and firewood will not be available to them as

felling of trees is banned, what would be the condition of the people? You must consider that thing. I hope, the hon. Minister will definitely assure this House so that all the people will be ensured supply of LPG.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rasa Singh Rawat – I have allotted you time without your request.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble minister apprised all the Hon'ble members in detail about the difficulties being faced in this regard in the meeting of Parliamentary Advisory Committee of Ministry of Petroleum held on 22nd. You had told one thing at that time that the problems of the people would be solved from 1st of December onwards and registration for new gas connections would start and all the problems of the people would be solved in coming 5-10 days. We all agree with what was mentioned by many of my friends that people have been facing great difficulty for a long time. When we went to our Parliamentary Constituencies after 22nd, even then there were same problems same long queue, same big heaps of cylinders, and there were empty cylinders lying here and there. When I asked the D.S.O. he replied that the quota for Kerosene Oil has been reduced and the quota of LPG has also been reduced simultaneously. Therefore, we want a clear answer from you, the people of the country want to know from you whether the problem of shortage of LPG which relates to housewives and every household will be solved, and the time by which this will be implemented in a meaningful manner.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I trust I will be given the opportunity to explain in as great detail to the House as I was able to the Consultative Committee the factual situation with respect to LPG and the steps being taken or contemplated to be taken to improve the situation.

First of all, I must share with the House my own distress which is equal to theirs at the way in which shortages have developed after I spoke in this House in August and said that we were trying to do what we should

to restore the situation to normalcy. I would like to come to the point as to why that happened in a moment.

[Translation]

I think that it would be better to answer all the questions one-by-one. By doing so all the issue raised may be explained partially, and some clarification may be given. I want to begin with the questions and comments by Hon'ble Shri Shiwankarji.

He has said that the shortage started after I became the minister in charge and other problems have also cropped up. I want to say that I agree to some extent with what he has said but I do not fix the international prices. The fact is that prices in the international market soared from the last quarter of 2003 to May 2004. In March 2004, the price was even less than Rs. 200 but at present it is touching Rs. 800. Now it has come down a little bit. I do not think that reason of this spurt is that Shri Ram Naik relinquished the office and Manishanker took over it. The main reason is this that the NDA Government framed certain policies in view of the prevailing International circumstances and now those international circumstances have changed a lot. Therefore, it is extremely necessary for us to change those policies. There is no lacking in intention and policy but there is a miracle changes in the international circumstances. Nobody has ever imagined that prices will go up like this and that is also for no reasons. Prices of petroleum products have increased more rapidly than that of oil. In this changed scenario we are trying to face this challenge. It is being said that we need to learn a lesson. During NDA regime it was available on demand but after change of guard at the centre people are facing a lot of difficulties in getting it.

I would like to start with the comparative figures of new connections of LPG released during NDA regime and during our time. The NDA Government provided 158 lakh new connections from 1 April 2001 to October 2003.

[English]

I want to repeat this in English, if you do not mind, that in the two-and-a-half year period, from the 1st of April, 2001 to October, 2003, the NDA Government made available 158 lakh new connections. As far as we are concerned, between the time I took over and October,

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

2005, we have delivered 100 lakh connections. The performance of the NDA Government in two-and-a-half years has been matched by my Government in one-and-a-half years and yet, it is repeatedly being said, completely untrue, that we are attempting deliberately to wipe the smile of our Griha Lakshmi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

Sir, Shri Gangwarji was also associated with this Ministry and if he has some facts or figures to counter it then I am ready to listen to him. At that time the Government was so inefficient that time that they could release only 158 lakh connections in two-and-a-half years. I am sorry that I am praising myself. I am so efficient that I took only one and half year to provide 100 lakh connections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Please tell us as to how many connections you have released during these two years. ...*(Interruptions)* You should give the figures for the years 1999 and 2000 and it will become clear as to who is efficient and who is inefficient. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER: I will not furnish data for the year 1999. Shri Gangwarji should furnish this data to the House because his party was in power at that time. I have put this data before the nation, what they did in two and half years and what we have done in one and half year and that too in adverse situation.

Shri Shiwankarji was telling me, he was either giving suggestion to me or giving me challenge or perhaps he was giving a threat. He cautioned me to be careful because if we do not improve the situation people of the country will not forgive us. The people of the country have not forgiven you that is why we are sitting this side and you are on that side. ...*(Interruptions)* It means LPG is not available in Bihar and it is available in rest of the country. During your regime when India was shining and LPG was easily available, the people of the country voted you out and brought us to power. We are doing our duty. I congratulate you if you also won some seats but for god's sake do not dictate us as to what we should do because we can do the work better than you and we have practically done that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair and not the individual Members.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER: Sorry Sir.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I now come to the points made by Shri Rupchand Pal. I have been very grateful that I have succeeded in bringing the Right and the Left together in this Calling Attention Motion. There has been a kind of a 'milibhagat' between the Communists and our right wing friends. I am glad that I have brought all of them together. But let me now come to the points made by Comrade Rupchand Pal.

First he asks, 'Why did Government not anticipate the shortage? Why did Government not take the appropriate decision with regard to imports?' Now, when Rupchandji becomes the Prime Minister of this country – and I hope he makes me his Petroleum Minister – we could perhaps reverse the present situation where it is not the Government which anticipates shortage, and it is not the Government which takes decisions with respect to imports but Navaratna., the OMCs. That is the position which I have inherited, and the job of the Government is to keep an eye on Navaratnas who have been given full autonomy to take commercial decisions.

I do find a certain contradiction between the principle of total autonomy to public sector undertakings and responsibility of the Minister of Petroleum for even nano-matters of management. It is a Constitutional conundrum which was raised in the Joint Parliamentary Committee of which both Shri Rupchand Pal and I were members, and which has still not been resolved. It is something to which I would request the entire House to give attention. How can I allow the commercial companies under me to have full autonomy, and at the same time exercise a kind of authority over them to tell them what they should anticipate and what steps they should take to forestall shortages from developing?

Nevertheless, I would like to clarify, with this little semantic difference, that the oil marketing companies did in fact very carefully plan for what would be the output in the year 2005-06 in comparison to what would be the output in the year 2004-05.

15.00 hrs.

Right at the beginning they anticipated that in this year there was going to be a reduction in output of LPG of the order of 0.4 million tonnes. This was based upon a notice that we have received from the principal producer of LPG in the country, which is the private sector refiner, whose name Comrade Acharia takes with some difficulty. I refer to Reliance Industries Limited. The Reliance Refinery has an exceptionally important role to play with respect to LPG production, and therefore, when we were notified by them last year itself - I am referring to the last calendar year itself - that they were likely to take a shut down for

their FCC unit, this was anticipated and the period indicated by them was taken into account while anticipating the total production and therefore, planning the required amount of imports, arrangements were made to make up for the shortfall in domestic production with imports from abroad. What however was into foreseen at that time was the repeated postponements that took place in the closure of the RIL refinery. Ultimately, they closed it on the 4th of October, and not much earlier in the year as we had earlier hoped, and instead of shut down lasting for 45-50 days, in actual fact it has gone on, as per my latest information, till today. But we can expect the full resumption in about two day's time. This is what I am told. So, there was not only a pushing forward into the year of the shut down, the shut down has lasted a little longer than had been expected. One of the unfortunate consequence of the postponement of the earlier plan for the shut down has been that it started literally in the week of the Pooja and has continued beyond Deepawali, beyond Eid, beyond Guru Govind Singh's Birthday till now. I was very pleased when I was asked to ensure by the BJP benches that by Christmas, our Christians would be able to get the LPG they require. In the spirit of true secularism, we are doing very best to ensure that everyone gets the LPG they require.

But the RIL close down was not by any means unusual, they only closed down. Quite correctly, as an hon. Member said, I think, it was Shri Gangwar, who has experience in this matter that there is nothing unusual in shutting downs taking place. There is nothing unusual either in some of these being planned and some of these being unplanned. Therefore, there is on the part of our OMC, on the basis of that experience, the habit of planning to import perhaps a little bit more than they strictly need but there are limitations to be able to do this on a very ostentatious scale for there are capacity limitations in ports; there are capacity limitations in storage. So, one has to plan to import bearing in mind that the flexibility available for receiving and storing in india is really somewhat limited. Within this parameter, some arrangements have been made. What I think had not been properly factored into the situation was the severe way in which production would dip in the public sector refineries and to some extent in the private sector as well during the months of April to May, and then on to September.

The consequence of this is that we have a total shortfall of production as compared to the planned production for the period of April to December 2005 of the order of 729 thousand metric tonnes which means approximately 7.3 lakh metric tonnes. About half of this is accounted for by shortfalls in PSU production, the exact figure being 393 thousand metric tonnes or 3.9 lakh metric tonnes and the shortfall on RIL's account being of the order of 3.36 lakh tonnes. So, it is this cumulative shortfall

in production which is being reflected in the market because certain specific difficulties arose which not even Comrade Acharia could have anticipated in August, for Karl Marx did not tell us that Hurricane Katrina was going to hit the US coast. It closed down 14 refineries. We received the final notice from RIL to say that they would close down in October, after we had begged and pleaded with them not to do so. They said that for technical reasons they had to do that. We received a notice from them in the month of August. My friend Comrade Acharia would well remember that it was in that very same month of August that Hurricane Katrina hit the Southern Coast of the United States. There were at least 14 major refineries affected. There is LPG usage in the United States, not perhaps for cooking as much as it is in India, but for other uses. Our traditional suppliers started diverting supplies in that direction because market prices for supplies to the United States rose well beyond what we could ourselves afford. There were several tenders put out by the IOC which were simply not responded to. Then we had to put out others to which we got some partial response. I am very glad to say that we have been able to import, we have planned to import about 238 thousand metric tonnes in addition to whatever was planned earlier in this period of October to December. I understand that well over 116 TMT has been received. I think, the latest figure is in the region of 138 TMT.

Where, I think, in my opinion, had I been an oil sector honcho instead of merely being a poor Minister, I would have drawn down inventories much quicker but it is a part of the professional expertise of oil marketing companies that you do not draw down inventories, if you possibly can, below about a week's stock. It is getting dangerously close to that. This can be illustrated by a small set of figures that I have. With the opening of the physical inventory of LPG with our oil marketing companies was as high as 333 thousand metric tonnes, that is, 3.3 lakh metric tonnes at the beginning of April and at the beginning of December now, it is down to 150. It is down to half of what we were holding. So, you can see that the instructions that I had to give ultimately, notwithstanding the principle of commercial autonomy that we must have a combination of import management and inventory management to make supplies available and to do this at an industry level by a composite task force of the marketing directors of all the oil marketing companies reporting back to the Government almost on a daily basis, has resulted in our having been able to reduce the physical shortage in this country. I am talking at a macro level to the whole market. The physical shortage in India today is approxi-

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

\*mately one and a half per cent of the average monthly turnover.

Now, that is not a very large physical shortage; which is why I have proudly claimed in my paper, in the Statement that I circulated, that we do not have to wait for Christmas to get rid of oil shortages. I hope, we will get rid of this 1.5 per cent by then. Substantially, in the National Capital Territory area we did eliminate the physical shortage by Dussehra as I had promised, by working all our plants in and around Delhi even on Sunday, the 9th of October, and that in the country as a whole we were so substantively able to reduce the shortage as to embolden me to put out a letter to the people of India through advertisements in almost all the major newspapers of this country wishing them a very, very Happy Diwali because we had succeeded at a macro level in reducing our physical shortage to a bearable amount.

Now, it is entirely possible that there would be somewhat larger shortages in particular markets given the fact that we have got several thousand LPG distributors and that they are operating in a wide variety of localities. Obviously I cannot correct it unless I am informed. We need a grievance redressal machinery which will alert our oil marketing companies. I started doing it under the Jan Kerosene Pariyojna with the local Panchayat bodies. But I do appeal to all sections of the House that there are facilities available in every distributors' office to record the complaint about what is not being done. This is a point that I need to stress to Comrade Rupchand Pal and to many others who spoke on this Calling Attention Motion that our problems are compounded by the massive incentive to diversion which is occurring on account of the wide and growing disparities between the control price at which we are trying to make available domestic LPG and the price at which it is made available commercially.

Sir, I think, this House needs to know and reflect upon the fact that with every cylinder of LPG which we distributed for domestic use in the month of October, 2005, we were, in effect, handing out a cheque of Rs. 198 to the housewife who bought the cylinder – I am talking about the 14.2 kilogram cylinder, not the double bottle connection – and the average for the period from April to October, because these prices kept fluctuating, was of the order of Rs. 147. Now, India is shining. At least, it is shining. Incomes are going up. We have subsidised domestic LPG being given as much to Mrs. Mukesh Ambani as to

somebody well below the BPL. It is in these circumstances that I suggested that if there was a very marginal saving in household expenditure, it so happened that I was asked about the ladies. So, I referred to the possibility. I made a quick calculation at that time that perhaps a saree costs Rs. 1,200, and Rs. 100 a month would have amounted to Rs. 1,200 per year. But if a gentleman had come and asked me, I would just have said 'why do you buy a trouser? You should put on dhoti because it is less expensive'.

The point simply is that we have to ask ourselves: Is this subsidy we are giving to absolutely everybody for the use of LPG, a justified subsidy at a time when international prices are rising and LPG is the only petroleum product which we are importing in substantial quantities? Approximately, a quarter of our domestic use of LPG comes from imported LPG.

I am not giving you an answer to my own question. I am merely posing the question as a joke. On, the occasion when comrade Acharia raised this matter in this House in the last Session, I did ask him whether his was a Party of the proletariat or a Party of bourgeoisie because consumers of LPG largely belong to bourgeoisie.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): It is not a fact.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I did not say entirely.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the speech of the Minister nothing else is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The fact of the matter is whether the consumer belongs to the highest income group or to the lowest income group, the price at which domestic LPG is made available to that consumer remains exactly the same. All I have asked for is reflection on this point. In these circumstances, the incentive to divert considerably increases. It is not an incentive. It is not a reaction which I approve of. On moral ground, I think it is completely wrong that anybody who is running a dhaba or a restaurant should pick up a domestic LPG cylinder and take it there. I think it is dangerous not just immoral for somebody whose motor car or auto rickshaw is not properly fitted for the use of LPG cylinder, to fix an LPG cylinder. It

\* Not recorded.

literally threatens the lives of those who will be travelling in that vehicle. But whose job is it to identify and stop this?

In so far as inspections are concerned, and I am making this statement in the context of the recent killing of Shri Manjunath, the House I hope will congratulate me although I am not sure that their generosity will extend to doing so.

**SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:** It depends on the supply of LPG.

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Can you please listen to me a minute Ajoy Bhai. In April-October 2004, the total number of cylinders which my people, that is the oil company inspectors, found diverted was 4,470. In April-October, 2005 we had discovered the diversion of 53,687 cylinders. Please do not tell me that we are not doing our work. We have done our work but that lot did not indulge in many inspections. Had they done, perhaps diversion was not on such a big scale because the price differential between the domestic and commercial cylinder was not so great. But the fact of the matter is that our inspections have significantly increased. We have increased the number of inspections to close on 18,000. The number of irregularities detected has increased from 163 in April-October 2004 period to 508 now. We have discovered more than double the cases of diversion; from 122 to 271. You can see where we have doubled the number of identified cases of diversion, we have increased by nearly 12 times the number of cylinders detected as having been diverted. So, we are trying to do what we can.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam):** I would like to know what action has been taken.

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Action to be taken against the distributors involves invoking the provisions of the marketing disciplinary guidelines as far as we are concerned. But much more important is the action that the State Governments are required to take and in saying this, I am not taking a dig at the CPI(M) Government in West Bengal or the Congress Government in Kerala. I am referring to all the State Governments. We have put LPG under the definition of essential commodities and anyone found using an LPG cylinder for other than domestic purposes, the person is liable for imprisonment even up to seven years.

But I cannot put people into jail. I cannot, even, file

an FIR against an individual in some State. Law and order is a State responsibility and we have repeatedly asked the State Governments to step up their activities with regard to what is happening with the diversion of cylinders. So, we do need, in this regard, two hands to clap – first is the problem of the distributors selling domestic-use cylinders for commercial purposes. But unless you find the person who is using it commercially, or using it for unauthorised purposes, it is difficult. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is talking about imposing penalties but as a matter of fact not a single raid has been conducted against the gas dealers who are handing out cylinders to hotels, sweet shops or other establishments and not a single person has been apprehended in this regard. Tell us, has any person been caught?

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Hon'ble Manvendra Singhji, I cannot do anything about the hotels and the dhabas. They do not come under my jurisdiction. It is the State Government's responsibility. We will also increase the number of raids conducted as part of the supervision. But we have to take care that we act in accordance with the rules laid down in the marketing Discipline Guide. Action taken by us has a high risk quotient. It is necessary that the State Government cooperate with us to help us in this regard and provide security forces to accompany our inspectors. The incident that took place recently near hon'ble Gangwarji's constituency highlights the need for the security forces to be made available by the State Government. We have said that it would be good if some assistance is also provided by the Central Industrial Security Force. However, the point I have emphasized is that the State Governments should be very vigilant in this regard and if they are vigilant then it may be possible to reduce this diversion to a certain extent.

*[English]*

**SHRI SURESH KURUP:** Sir, I would like to know, what action the oil companies are taking against the distributors who are indulging in these activities?

**SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR:** Sir, may I clarify for the fourth time this afternoon that action by oil companies against the distributors is taken in terms of the provisions



[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

of the Distributorship Agreement as well as the Marketing Discipline Guidelines which we revise from time to time taking into account recent developments.

Now, there has been considerable resistance from the officers and officials of the oil sector to the increasingly stringent nature of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. We do our best but what we do will only be a drop in the ocean. The work of the State Governments in this regard has to substantially improve, or alternatively the wide and growing gap between the domestic LPG prices and the commercial LPG prices has to be reduced.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Can the Government not cancel the licenses of the distributors?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines there are provisions with regard to this and we have been cancelling certain distributorships.

Sir, it has been asked of me by Shri Sudhansu Seal as to why there is less weight of the cylinders. Here again, the Weights and Measures Department of the State Governments comes into play and since Shri Seal comes from the state of West Bengal I want to draw his attention to the fact that the State Government of Delhi undertook raids at the end of September which is what resulted in strikes in LPG bottling plants on 29th September.

So, it is for the State Government of West Bengal to take appropriate measures to see that weights and measures are duly respected and we are trying to do what we can on our part.

What we are also hoping to do is to perhaps have a different colour for the domestic LPG cylinder than the colour which we would have for the commercial use so that if a cylinder with the colour for domestic use is found in a commercial establishment, it becomes easy to detect. But, at the same time, the cost of converting the colour from one to the other is not very great. So, we are looking into this aspect carefully to see whether there are administrative measures possible. But I do wish to stress that so long as economic forces operate in the direction of encouraging this diversion, it is going to be very difficult for us to really control it effectively and fully.

[Translation]

For some reason Yogiji had said just now that we should stop talking about Radha and Krishna. Yogiji also

said that he wanted to know why the burden of subsidies in the country was being passed on to the oil companies. The reply is this that this instrument was initiated by his side when they sat on the treasury benches and I used to sit on the opposite side. This is continuing till today. The burden of subsidies on the oil companies is the gift of hon'ble Shri Ram Naikji. Hence, I am deeply grateful to him for showing me the way and this burden is increasing day by day. Why is this burden increasing? I would like to throw some light on this issue as well.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: You are telling untruths, Do you not know how things are being run? We want a factual reply as to how is the problem going to be solved? You may hold a discussion in the House if you wish we do not want to listen to a half-an-hour long speech from him. We wish to know when is he going to solve the problem?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If he does not wish to listen to my speech, I think tea and coffee are available outside. This is not a discussion between the two of us. This is a discussion between we and those hon'ble Members who have raised the matter and I think that it is my duty to give full details. The situation is different from the times when they used to go away after giving incomplete answers, that regime has now yielded place to the new. ...*(Interruptions)* About the subsidies I was saying that the last time we had raised the prices of petrol and diesel, I had said that 51 percent of the increase in prices would be borne by the oil companies, 36 percent by the Government and only 13 percent would be passed on to the consumers. If you want that this should be covered under the financial budget, you are free to say so. But I think that such a situation would lead to a substantial reduction in the funds earmarked for the development of the country. I have replied to Achariaji's query regarding diversions and given information about the movies to Shri Radha Krishanji who is in the habit of going away after putting a question.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have not said anything about the orders. You had issued orders that no new connections would be provided. What do you want to say regarding the loss increased to public sector on account of that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much more time will you take? I have a lot of business remaining to be taken up at present.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): If you say so, I shall finish my statement in five minutes.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): I want to know whether the new connections will be provided from 1st of December. How long will it take to improve the condition? The Hon'ble Minister may please state as to how long will it take to improve the condition?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I say with full responsibility to the House that no such direction either by the Government of India or by my ministry had ever been issued that new connection would not provided. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. Have patience. You are Swamiji. We should learn to have patience from you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I wish to make it completely clear that there have been no instructions or directions from the Government. But, the fact of the matter is that when severe shortages developed from the month of September and when it was not possible for the oil companies to meet the demand of existing customers, it did make sense for them to not compound their problems by allowing additional connection. ...*(Interruptions)* I object to Shri Santosh Gangwar interrupting me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble minister is not replying properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We did not interrupt like this, when we used to sit here. ...*(Interruptions)* Please go out and have a cup of tea or coffee. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of the people is being ignored; therefore, we oppose it and walk out of the House.

15.27 hrs.

*(Shri Yogi Aditya Nath and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: For the benefit of those Members who have chosen to remain here, I wish to give

the clarification that in the last quarter of the NDA regime, there was such a total misuse of domestic LPG connections that in a single quarter the rate of growth of consumption rose by 18.8 per cent. I cannot believe that this has nothing to do with the BJP's connections with those who were making the diversions. It is because we spotted that there was a lot of diversion to non-domestic uses taking place, we insisted that our Oil Marketing Companies to observe the customer strength of their respective distributors. In accordance with that, we have succeeded in limiting the amount of gas that is made available to any given distributor to approximately the number of its customers' strength.

In regard to new connections, because the situation has improved and the issue was raised in the consultative Committee, with the permission of the hon. Members present in the consultative committee, I did something that I was not supposed to do. I directed the OMCs to start giving new connections from the 1st of December. They agreed with my request on the spot. This is what is stated in the statement that has been circulated. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow a little more time for the backlog to get cleared. I would say that with effect from the 1st of January, if you find any distributor not meeting the requirement of new connections, do let me know or do let the Territory Manager of the Company know. We will try to sort it out. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not allow such rumours to unnecessarily circulate in the market. Thank you very much.

15.29 hrs

(ii) **Situation arising out of spread of encephalitis in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 11. Yogi Aditya Nath.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I draw the attention of the minister of health and family welfare towards the following matters of urgent public importance and request him give his statement in this regard:

"Situation arising out of spread of encephalitis in the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

\* Brain Fever due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is caused by a virus are pigs and water birds and in its natural cycle, virus is maintained in these animals. Man is an accidental host and does not play role in JE transmission, the outbreaks occur where there is close interaction between these animals and human beings. The vectors of JE breed in large water bodies such as paddy fields. The mosquitoes are outdoor ruster and therefore vector control measures such as indoor residual spray are not very effective.

While there is no specific treatment for this disease, early symptomatic management is important. In case of JE and other viral encephalitis, the management of the critically ill children is directed at minimizing risk of death and complications. However, for prevention of the disease, various public health measures such as control of mosquitoes, protection from mosquito bites by using mosquito net, protective clothing and keeping the pig - animal reservoir of JE away from human dwelling are advocated. Killed mouse brain JE vaccine is being manufactured in limited quantities at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli and supplied directly to the states by using state funds. Government of India is strengthening CRI, Kasauli to augment the capacity for manufacturing of JE vaccines. Three doses of the vaccine provide immunity lasting a few years and repeated booster doses are required every 3 years. Vaccination is not recommended as an outbreak control measure.

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is an outbreak prone viral infection having cyclic trend with seasonal phenomenon. Children below 15 years are mostly affected. As per reports received from state health authorities, during the year 2005 up to 17-11-2005, 6314 cases and 1539 deaths due to suspected Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have been reported from 9 states in the country. State-wise cases and deaths due to suspected JE as reported by the

\* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2904/2005.

State health Authorities for the last five years are given at Annex-I, being laid on the Table of the House. During this year, outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis has been reported in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh. A total of 5842 cases with 1387 deaths (up to 17.11.2005) have been reported since 29th July, 2005. District-wise cases and deaths due to suspected JE in the State of U.P. are enclosed at Annex-2, being laid on the Table of the House.

For effective prevention and control of JE and implementation of advance action plan to prevent any outbreak, the Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Government of India has been regularly monitoring situation by maintaining constant touch with State Government as well as convening review meetings, organizing trainings for capacity building, awareness campaigns for community involvement and field visits for supervision and monitoring. Government of India provides need-based assistance to the states and technical support for outbreak investigations and control.

The state governments have been advised that in the endemic districts, anticipatory preparations should be made for timely availability of medicines, equipment and accessories as well as sufficient number of trained medical, nursing and paramedical personnel. The strategy for control includes strengthening the surveillance activities and integrated vector control, capacity building and Behaviour Change Communication.

The following actions have been undertaken by NVBDCP for the prevention and control of JE in U.P.:

During 2004, five training courses for Medical Officers to Uttar Pradesh were arranged to improve the skills of peripheral doctors in case management and prevention and control of JE.

Dte. of NVBDCP Team visited the western districts of Uttar Pradesh namely; Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur in April, 2005. high density of JE vectors was found and conveyed to the state to take the necessary control measures.

Dte. of NVBDCP Team visited Gorakhpur for review of JE prevention and control activities in June 2005.

A national review meeting on JE was conducted at NVBDCP, Delhi on 1 June 2005 to review the current strategy for prevention and control of JE.

Keeping in view of the forthcoming season for encephalitis outbreak, a review meeting on JE was conducted at Saharanpur to review the control strategy and to finalize the action plan for prevention and control of JE in Saharanpur and Muzaffar Nagar districts, Uttar Pradesh.

Guidelines for prevention and control of JE and advisories were also sent to states before transmission season.

The following actions have been undertaken by Government of India for control of the current outbreak of JE in U.P.

Central teams consisting of clinical and public health experts led by Director General of Health Services (D.G.H.S.), Government of India along with Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme and Director, National Institute of Communicable Diseases visited Gorakhpur. They met and discussed with State health authorities, the Minister of State for Health, Chief Secretary, and other senior officers of Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding various remedial measures for containment of the JE outbreak.

Rapid Response Teams from DGHS, Ministry of Health & F.W., have visited worst affected districts of Gorakhpur Division and assisted the state in instituting containment measures.

The Central Teams of experts from Government of India also visited the affected districts of Gorakhpur Division and Saharanpur for providing guidance to the State Government and district health authorities in timely management of JE outbreak.

I alongwith Secretary (Health & FW) also visited Gorakhpur District on 1st September, 2005, to take stock of the JE situation and directed the authorities to gear up public health measures for the containment of epidemic outbreak. I assured the district administration that necessary support will be provided by the Government of India in tackling JE outbreak effectively.

Government of India has provided the following assistance to Government of Uttar Pradesh for the prevention and control of JE outbreak:

Essential medicines and consumables to manage JE cases.

Medical equipment i.e. Ventilators and ELISA reader.

JE diagnostic kits.

Mosquito bed nets for personal protection.

Malathion (Technical) and hand-held fogging machines for insecticidal fogging in affected areas.

Synthetic Pyrethroid insecticide liquid for impregnation of bed nets.

Fenthion and Temephos larvicides for control of mosquito breeding.

Details of supplies provided by Government of India to Uttar Pradesh are given at Annex-3 being laid on the Table of the House.

Community Health education is being undertaken to prevent spread of infection and rush the patients to nearest referral centres/hospitals for immediate case management.

A round-the-clock Control Room has been established at NICD, 22, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-manned by Public Health specialist, Entomologist and Microbiologist. The control room at NICD is in liaison with State/Districts authorities for providing daily report to DGHS and any guidance and support needed by the state.

Surveillance unit has been established at Gorakhpur-Sub-office of Regional Director, RGO&FW established in LNM Railway Hospital Complex, Gorakhpur to provide logistic and technical support to the affected districts.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had drawn the attention of the Hon'ble minister in this House on 12th of August towards the grave situation arising out of spread of Japanese encephalitis in eastern Uttar Pradesh for the last 28 years and it has also spread in different part of the country. I had told at that time also that it is probably for the first time in 28 years that different Governments have ignored such a serious situation in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Japanese encephalitis has been controlled by creating adequate awareness, vaccination and by other effective measures of prevention in different countries where this disease has spread. More than ten thousands innocent children have died during the last 28 years only in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Approximately more

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

than five thousand children have become physically and mentally handicapped due to this. This year the disease had spread in entire UP, including eastern UP, in the most serious manner within the last 28 years. As the Hon'ble minister had assured this House that the Central Government would provide 100% assistance to the State government for controlling five important diseases caused by virus. The Hon'ble minister has made some effort himself after the question was raised here. Hon'ble minister has himself seen children dying due to this disease at BRD Medical College on 1st of September. I am grieved to say that more than 15 thousand children have died of Japanese encephalitis in eastern Uttar Pradesh this year after 15th of July. More than one thousand children have died of Japanese encephalitis only in BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur. But in spite of all this, the reply given by the Hon'ble minister consists of many things which are surprising. He has said that some material relating to Japani encephalitis has been given and the Government of India has provided several medicines. He has also said that 20 ventilators have also been made available. The maximum number of patient affected by Japani encephalitis were admitted in the B.R.D. Medical College. But as of now only 7 ventilators have reached the B.R.D. Medical College.

The Hon. Minister gave assurance last year also that the Uttar Pradesh Government had been making arrangement of medicines since 1998. He said about giving fogging machines so that U.L.B. is sprayed in the affected areas. The larva of culex mosquito should also be destroyed because that is the main cause for the Spread of this disease. The fogging machines were given for spraying U.L.B., methalian etc. in the affected areas but that was not done in the affected areas. There was no spraying or fogging or vaccination undertaken there. The list which the Hon. Minister has made available indicates that either the Hon. Minister is misleading the House or the agencies which were given materials did not take initiative in the earnest manner.

I want to bring one more thing into the knowledge of hon. Minister and the House. There was a talk of providing medicated mosquito nets but actually those provided were not medicated ones. The agencies through which the Government of India procured the mosquito nets were medicated ones only from the view of killing mosquitoes and were provided to the affected families just for the sake of providing only.

Actually who was responsible for the said fraud, were they the contractors whom the Government awarded the contract or who is responsible for the said scam? I want to know about all these things. Besides, concrete measures should have been initiated for the prevention of this Japani encephalitis. A new strain of virus has emerged this time around. This virus is spreading through the filthy water and it has shown its presence in the entire Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Hundreds of children have become the victims of this new strain of virus. The patients affected by this virus have been admitted in the Gorakhpur Medical College and districts hospitals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last time also when I raised this issue, I was told that several important measures had been taken. Those included intensive vaccination programme besides maintaining cleanliness, creating awareness among people through publicity and providing necessary facilities to the affected people in various hospitals of the districts. The hon. Minister had said in the House last time also but one thing is not clear today also as to who will spray of the U.L.B. State Government or the Central Government. The vaccine available for this Japani encephalitis costs Rs.1500/-. Since this disease has spread among the poor section of the society, they would not be able to bear the cost of this vaccine. Will this vaccine be made available by the State Government or the Centre government keeping it in view? And this time arrangement of providing medicines free of cost has been made. Will this be done by the State Government or the Union Government, besides what initiatives are being taken by the Central or State Government for the children who have become handicapped, because the Central Government or the State Government has not taken any initiatives for the thousands of people who became physically or mentally handicapped in the last 28 years? I would like to urge upon the government to seriously think on this issue. This disease surfaces about 15 States every year resulting in the premature death of thousands of children.

15.43 hrs

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the poorer section of society becomes the victims of this disease but neither the State Government nor the Central government has made any efforts in this regard in the last 28 years. I would like to ask the Government about the arrangements made by it to

impart training to the qualified trainers for spray of ULB for protection against the Japanese Encephalitis? What are the steps being taken by the Government of India for setting up a virology laboratory to check the Japanese Encephalitis in Gorakhpur and other districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh? That the State Government asked for vaccines for the areas affected by the Japanese Encephalitis; if so, the quantity thereof demanded for the eastern U.P. and the quantum of vaccine provided by the Union Government to the State Government so far? What are the arrangements made by the government for providing free of cost treatment to the children or families affected by the Japanese Encephalitis and the arrangements it is going to make for rehabilitation of the handicapped children affected by this disease?

The next point is that the hon. Minister had given assurance here that the technique used in India for developing vaccine is an old one. The vaccines made in Kasauli are made through Mouse culture. The Government of India will bring here the technique for producing vaccines through the tissue culture and carry out vaccination in the affected areas on the lines of Pulse Polio campaign by making vaccines on large scale. I want to know from the hon. Minister the arrangements made by the government for tissue culture or carrying out vaccination in maximum numbers as per the demand there and whether the Government has adopted some new technique or not? The hon. Minister may please answer all these points in his reply.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my colleague Yogi Adityanath has apprised the House in detail of deadly disease-brain fever through the Calling Attention motion. Before this, a discussion was held on the brain fever in the last session also. I want to tell the Hon. Minister that my colleague Yogi Adityanath ji has raised a point related to his own parliamentary constituency Gorakhpur. But, this disease has severely affected Fatehpur to Gorakhpur in eastern U.P. and upto the Bihar border. Information was also received through the news papers that this disease had also spread in some areas in Assam too. The concern raised by hon. Members in this regard and all the issues related to it have been expressed and discussed through questions and hon. Minister have made statements thereon. But, the Government has not taken any effective step in this regard. The U.P. Government has done as much as it could.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency is adjoined with Purvanchal, therefore, I know that whenever we got information about the break out of disease, we people used to inform the District Medical Officer there who used to send full team. But, in reality they did not have necessary things like medicated mosquito net, spray of medicine with them. They used to do some work by spraying ordinary medicine DDT etc. or by cleaning etc. or completed a formality by putting some quantity of chlorine into water. Uttar Pradesh Government had demanded from the Union government since the State could not import directly the necessary medicines to check the disease until the Centre grants its permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a calling Attention Motion. You should ask clarification from the Government.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I am coming to that. Even after that, the Union Government did not pay attention towards it. I want to ask the hon. Minister about the arrangement he is going to make in this regard. This disease is prevailing continuously for many days in that area. The House should be informed in this regard as to why the Government has not taken any effective step in this connection so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will call Dr. Ram Chandra Dome.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: What is the helplessness of the Union Government in this matter? What efforts are being made by the hon. Minister to check it? The hon. Minister may please answer all these points in his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your point has been noted, then why are you repeating it?

*[English]*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It is an important issue raised by my esteemed colleague Yogi Aditya Nath. He has elaborately discussed this issue. This is a vector-borne dreaded viral disease. This year, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Dengue,

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

etc. spread in a massive dimension in various parts of our country.

Somewhere it is in epidemic form and somewhere it is in endemic form. But it is tragic that in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, hundreds of human lives have been lost due to the outbreak of dreaded diseases like Japanese encephalitis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Dome, you can only ask clarifications.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, I am asking only clarifications.

Sir, it is very sad that this sort of communicable diseases are spread... every year and taking the lives of the poorest of the poor people of our country and particularly the major victims to these diseases are our children. That is a cause of concern.

Now, I would like to ask some clarification from the Minister. I would like to know whether the Ministry was well informed beforehand about the massive outbreak of vector-borne diseases like Japanese encephalitis, Dengue etc. this year in various parts of our country; whether the Government has failed to expedite the vector control programme adequately leading to such a situation and what is the reason for such huge loss of lives due to these diseases. I would also like to know whether the Ministry of Health has conducted any study by the experts to ascertain the exact strain of the virus and whether the Government has developed any indigenous form of suitable vaccines to control Japanese Encephalitis in our country in future. What are the other measures that the Government is taking to control vector-borne diseases like Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue etc. in the near future in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman Sir, just now Yogi Aditya Nath made his points about brain fever and the hon'ble Minister has been giving detailed information about this during the Question Hour. It is evident from the Annexure-II to the statement given by the hon'ble Minister that this disease has acquired an alarming dimension in Uttar Pradesh during the last five years. There has been manifold increase in this disease during the year 2005 and more than 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh are affected by this disease. In his reply the hon'ble Minister has said that

[English]

"While there is no specific treatment for this disease, only preventive measures are to be taken."

[Translation]

It appears to me perhaps there is lack of coordination between the Union government and the State government. I want to say that we will have to take preventive measures first. There is paucity of resources in Uttar Pradesh and the required medical facilities are not available to the extent to which these should be available. In such a situation it is the responsibility of the Union Government to monitor the situation and provide resources to Uttar Pradesh as per its requirements. Today this disease is confined not only in poorvanchal but has also spread to Saharanpur and other areas. I request that this matter should be taken up on priority basis and a meeting with the State Government be held to see as to what remedial measures can be taken to prevent this diseases. If someone is infected with this disease it is very difficult to prevent it from affecting the head of the patient. If this disease reaches the head of the infected person there are no chances of his survival. Therefore, it would be better to have preventive measures first. It should be done in rural areas first because it is very much needed there. If the Union Government don't provide required resources to the State governments it will be very difficult to succeed in containing this disease. I request the government to take preventive measures beforehand and have a meeting with the State government to discuss as to how this disease can be checked.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Chairman Sir, Japanese Encephalitis is such a fatal disease that the rate of its morbidity and mortality is very high. I would like to ask only two questions from the Minister.

Is the Ministry contemplating any national scheme to control this disease?

My second question is this. What is the awareness that is created among the people for prevention of this disease?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, I want

clarification from the hon'ble Minister only on two-three points. Japanese Encephalitis has come our country from South Eastern countries. This disease has come to our country from countries like Myanmar, Cambodia and other South Eastern countries and it has spread in three fourth area of our country. Quelex Mosquito is found in the paddy fields and it breeds there. Paddy cultivating areas are most prone to this disease. Small farmers and poor people work in Paddy fields and this is the reason that mostly this section of people got affected by this disease. This poor section of the society also rear pigs. Mostly the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got affected by this disease. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he had any discussion with South Eastern countries in regard to efforts made by them to check the spread of this disease and if he had not discussed it with them the reasons therefore and the time by which he would have a discussion in this regard?

Second point is that Bicon Vaccine is to prevent this disease and this vaccine is quite costly. It can not be expected from a poor labourer to buy this vaccine for prevention of this disease. Whether any discussion has been held with the State governments to make this vaccine available at lower price? You have enhanced budget considerably for health care this year and tall claims have been made in this regard. Whether any provisions have been made in the current budget to make these costly medicines available to the States?

Thirdly I want to ask that there are agencies of UNFPA and United Nations Organizations which run several programmes to check this disease. Whether the government has implemented any programme to check this disease in collaboration with any agency of UNFPA or United Nations Organization? If at all any programme has been implemented in the States and districts the names of such States and district where programme has been implemented? This disease is not confined only to the Paddy cultivating areas. In Madhya Pradesh lot of people have been affected by this disease and this disease is spreading all over the country. The hon'ble Minister should take notice of all these things seriously and reply accordingly.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister a very specific question. This encephalitis has spread all over

the eight North-Eastern States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got this knowledge that duplicate medicines for this encephalitis are being sold all over the North-Eastern States.

There is no medicine testing laboratory in the North-Eastern States, except in Guwahati, which is not functioning. A lot of cases have been reported in the North-Eastern States. I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister has taken any steps to tackle this menace of supply of duplicate medicines. The hon. Minister may kindly note that LL medicine, that is, Linglang Medicine, which is a duplicate medicine, is sold at Rs.15 per strip, whereas the cost of the strip of the original medicine is Rs.100. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has taken all such measures to stop selling of these duplicate medicines, which are being sold all over the North-Eastern States.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member, Shri Yogi Adityanath, but I would also like to deny certain issues which he raised about the so-called inactivity of the Central Government.

Coming back to my reply, which I have given, it states the sequence of events very clearly that the Central Government had taken first to prevent the spread of JE virus in Uttar Pradesh. Let us talk about Uttar Pradesh first, then we will come to other States. When the outbreak had happened, the steps were taken to treat those patients and to take care of the future also.

I would like to go through part of my reply when we say that the steps taken for the prevention part.

16.00 hrs.

During 2004, that is last year itself, five training courses for Medical Officers to Uttar Pradesh were arranged to improve the skills of peripheral doctors in case management, prevention and control of JE.

A team from the Department of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, which is a programme going on against JE and other vector borne diseases like Dengue, Malaria, Kala-Azar and Filariasis, visited the western districts of Uttar Pradesh namely, Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur in April, 2005. High density of vectors were found and this was conveyed to the State Government to take necessary control measures. Then, another team visited Gorakhpur for review of JE prevention and control activities in June, 2005.



[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

A national review meeting on JE was conducted by the Department of the National Vector Borne Diseases in Delhi on 1st June, 2005 to review the current strategy for prevention and control of JE.

Keeping in view the forthcoming season for encephalitis outbreak, a review meeting on JE was conducted at Sahampur to review the control strategy and to finalize the action plan for prevention and control of JE in Sahampur and Muzaffar Nagar districts, Uttar Pradesh.

Guidelines for prevention and control of JE and advisories were also sent to States before transmission season.

In fact, we have been advising the Government of Uttar Pradesh to take other preventive steps, in fact starting from 2004 season. It is not that the Central Government is sitting idle and not advising. Not only we are advising the Uttar Pradesh Government but also other States - Bihar, North-East, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. We have been advising all the endemic areas of JE. Our team from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme has gone there. We have the National Institute of Communicable Diseases. Experts from that Institute have gone there. People from the National Institute of Entomology have gone to these regions. They survey and warn the State Governments of the impending problems in case of any outbreak of disease. This is what we have done to the State Government.

To supplement that, the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme have been very actively coordinating with the State Government not only in Uttar Pradesh but also other States of endemic areas and for taking preventive measures, which I have already mentioned in my answer, which I could again say, like mosquito nets. In fact, we have two types of mosquito nets. One is the long lasting mosquito net. It is already pre-impregnated with Synthetic Pyrethroid and long lasting. Then, we have an ordinary mosquito net, which should be impregnated at a later date. We have about 10 ml of this liquid Synthetic Pyrethroid. We give it to the customers and they impregnate into water, and for every six months they have to do it. This is what we give them.

We are advising the State Governments to do fogging and to spraying with Fethion, Malathion, insecticides and larvicides. We give these materials, we give the technology

and we give the technical assistance. The manpower has to come from the State Government. It is their responsibility.

Of course we have given some larvicide like Temophos, larvivorus fish. Then, the U.P. State has large water bodies. The hon. Member has said that the State has huge rice and paddy fields, and these water bodies are huge bodies. So, we are trying to give these larvivorus fishes there and reduce the larvae of the mosquito and stop further spread of this disease. Of course, this has been going on, and for the last 28 years, there had been an outbreak. The endemic areas have been associated. It has come from Japan. It has travelled to South East Asia. Now, in India, it has been spreading in the endemic areas. So, we will tell what the Government is trying to do for the future also.

Of course, for fogging, we have now supplied requisite quantum of chemicals, larvicides and insecticides. We have IEC campaigns. We have asked them to take up these. We have supplied expensive medicines to treat not only JE but also the other vector borne diseases like Malaria, Filariasis and other diseases.

Coming back to the issue raised by Shri Yogi Adityanath about a virology lab, we have a plan to set up a surveillance or monitoring unit in Gorakhpur with the help of the UN and the WHO, and that is an on-going process. There will be a one set up in Gorakhpur itself to monitor in future any outbreak of diseases not only JE but also outbreaks also of vector borne diseases.

The hon. Member has said that the Central Government has not been doing much on this issue. In fact, I had answered the same question also in the last Session of Parliament.

We are definitely concerned. I am very concerned. We would not like to have an outbreak of this magnitude in the future. We are taking steps for providing good vaccine. Today unfortunately we do not have a capacity to manufacture the currently approved mouse brain vaccine of JE. This has been produced by the CRI, Kasauli. The capacity today is just about 5,00,000 doses of mouse brain vaccines. But we intend to increase it to at least one million in the coming season. But till such time we have asked our Embassies in the countries of Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan and China to procure whatever available mouse brain vaccines.

We intend to have approximately five to six million of these vaccine doses before the next year. We intend to vaccinate not only the children in Uttar Pradesh but also the children in high endemic districts, which are approximately 30 in the country, inclusive of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, a little bit of North East, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. All these areas are high endemic areas which we have. We have medium endemic areas. So, categorising accordingly we are trying to come here.

But at the same time we have another vaccine. It is called tissue culture vaccine which is a Chinese vaccine, which we are trying to find the efficacy in safety. In fact I have asked the ICMR and WHO jointly to go into the safety module of the Chinese vaccine. It is a much cheaper vaccine which could be produced more than the mouse brain vaccine, and that is being done. They say that within six months' time they will give us a view whether this could be carried on and the children could be vaccinated.

We are supplying these vaccines to the Government. We have a programme. The poor people need not buy these vaccines. It is the Government's responsibility. Both the Central and State Governments are responsible. We will vaccinate the children in these high endemic areas. Of course, regarding the rehabilitation work, the children are affected. When the people are recovered from the JE, there is a problem. We are thinking on the lines to have more rehabilitation units associated in the districts.

Coming back to my friend, Shri Shailendra Kumar's issue that it is affecting Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, I have already answered that. Of course, his issue is that despite the requests from the State Government, the Central Government has not done much. This is totally wrong. I have said that in my answer. If you go through the answer, you will find what are the steps we have been taking. After the outbreak, the State Government has given us a request for 75 lakh vaccines. For 75 lakh vaccines, we do not have a capacity all over the world, leave alone India. We have only 5,00,000 vaccines.

We have already advised the State Governments to take necessary steps. We have advised them to take mainly the public health measures for prevention. The problem in Uttar Pradesh is that the people who are living in the lowest strata of life are the most affected. Very poor people have been affected. They are associated with the pigs and

the piggery they have. It is their way of life and they have been living there for a long time. Here pig is the interminant host. So, we need to segregate the pigs from the human habitation. This is one simple method which will go a long way in preventing these diseases. This is a very simple method. We need not remove the pig totally. You segregate this from the human habitation. That is what we have been advising the State Government to do it.

I think they have to have a more commitment to do it. I am sure they will do it. We will be advising more on these issues. Coming back to vaccines, we are trying to procure vaccines on behalf of all the States and all the endemic areas. We are going to move forward in the coming season. Hopefully, we will try to prevent this outbreak in the future.

My friend Dr. Ram Chandra Dome had asked whether the Ministry was informed before. Yes, we have our own surveillance units for these diseases, not only JE but also other diseases. We advise the State Government accordingly of the impending problem in the future. He was asking a question whether the Department has done a study. Yes, this is an on-going process. We have been doing this. About the suitable vaccine, I have already mentioned about it.

Of course, Mr. Santosh Gangwar is concerned about Uttar Pradesh where from he comes. I am sure we are taking a lot of measures in co-ordination with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to remove this huge problem of JE not only from Uttar Pradesh but from the other parts of the county also. Of course, Dr. Babu Rao has said about the national scheme. Yes, we have a National Vector Borne Disease Control programme which tries to control five diseases like JE, malaria, filariasis, Japanese Encephalitis and Kala-Azar.

Regarding awareness on prevention, there is a lot of IEC activity which is much, much needed. We are going on those lines also. Mr. Lakshman Singh said the vaccine is expensive. Whatever is the expense, the Government has to bear it and we are going to bear these expenses. For whatever vaccine preventable diseases, not only JE but any other vaccine preventable disease, the Government is going to go, procure, give and vaccinate the future innocent children of the country to help them out.

He was asking about as to whether we have coordinated with the UN Agencies. We have our own set

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

up and we have our own requisite capacity. We ask external assistance from the WHO which coordinates. In fact, the UN Agencies are helping in polio campaign in a big way in UP and Bihar. It is a good module. We could even use through this polio campaign for vaccination of the affected children there. My friend Mr. Tapir has said about some duplicate medicines in North East. Since you have brought this matter, we will take notice of this. If you have any specific issue, you could please meet me and give me these issues about this kind of medicines and all that. We will definitely take action on these medicines. In fact, the drug testing lab in Guwahati has been modernized now under the capacity building project, the World Bank funded project. We are going to have a very modern lab in Guwahati to tackle these issues. We are very concerned about these issues. I share the concern of the hon. Member. I think in the coming months and years, we will definitely take all steps to avoid having this sort of outbreaks and help them in coordination with the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I had a supplementary.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Still we have to take up so many important business. Shailendra ji, you were given a chance to ask question. Now there is no such provision in it. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The reply given to my question is not satisfactory. We may be permitted to ask one or two explanations from the Hon'ble Minister as the Hon'ble Minister's reply is not satisfactory. The hon'ble Minister has said that the Government started taking preventive measures in June. If they had started these measures since June, then had this disease spread on such a large scale? Secondly, he has said that for U.L.V. (ultra low volume insecticide) melatheaon etc. were made available and that was sprayed there. But where that was sprayed? It was not sprayed in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh be it Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Maharajganj, Sidharthnagar, Sant Kabirnagar or Basti. It was not sprayed in the entire State. After all who is responsible for this? Thirdly, there was no vaccination and as far as the medicated mosquito nets are concerned, the Government should explain as to who was responsible for the fraud in the purchase of medicated mosquito nets as to even a single

mosquito net was medicated. Who is doing this? There are some middlemen who siphon off money of this Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): The hon'ble Minister in his statement has also stated that they have sent a team of Doctors to Bihar, which is a poor and backward state. I do not know as to which team went there and what was made available and where the spray was undertaken and where the vaccination was started. I want a simple answer from the hon'ble Minister as to what was the report of team which was sent to Bihar and what resources were provided there based on the said report and the quantum of medicines and spray material made available there. The hon'ble Minister should clarify these points in his reply.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Coming to the vaccination, we have not said that we have vaccinated these children there. There is no point in vaccinating during an outbreak. It is not much effective. We have to vaccinate children after the outbreak or in fact before the next outbreak. That is what we are trying to do. My friend, Swamiji sees about the non-availability of the mosquito nets. I think this is a whole list of items which we have supplied to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. It is the onus of the State Government to supply it. In fact, we are trying to coordinate more with the State Governments.

I am coming back to Bihar. Yes, teams have already been there. We have coordinated it. There are no borders. Disease does not have any borders whether it is UP or Bihar. Wherever endemic areas are there whether it is Bihar or UP or even Madhya Pradesh, the whole teams go there and they advise. Whatever equipment or material or chemicals or spray or whatever they want, we supply to them to tide over the situation.

16.15 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item No. 12 – Matters under rule 377.

- (1) **Need to conduct a CBI Inquiry into alleged disappearance of huge stock of rice from the**

**Warehousing Corporation Store at Kunkuri,  
Chhattisgarh**

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the incident that has taken place in Kunkuri, Chhattisgarh where a huge stock of rice has disappeared from the Warehousing Corporation Store. The rice was sent from the Civil Supplies Corporation as part of the Food for Work Programme under various schemes which are in operation for the poor and targeted population. This incident has created a great furore among the local population and raised a big question mark about the efficacy of the public distribution system. The disappearance of cereals stored in government godowns meant for distribution among the poor people is a serious matter. Although more than two months have elapsed, the matter is still hanging fire. An inquiry by the CBI has become essential.

I request the Central Government to conduct a CBI inquiry into the matter.

**(II) Need to include Bengali community of erstwhile East Pakistan settled in Uttaranchal in the list of Scheduled Castes.**

[Translation]

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many castes of Bengali Community displaced from erstwhile East Pakistan and settled in Uttaranchal State have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes. These castes include Nimoh Sudra Pondra, Lohar, Bhumali, Majhi, Malo, Rajvanshi, Dhobi, Ravidas, Palia, Nunia, Kewat and Lada Rajput castes.

Sir, it has been a long standing demand for many years to include these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes. These castes have been included in the above list in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar etc. but they have not been included so far in Uttaranchal. The Uttaranchal Government has already sent many proposals to the Government of India for including these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes. I, myself, have intimated the Government through letters in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to immediately take necessary action to include all these castes living in Uttaranchal in the list of Scheduled Castes.

**(III) Need for a phased programme to replace all the railway crossings in the country with overbridges and underpasses**

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, while travelling in a train anywhere in India, it is common to see long queues of all sorts of vehicles, from cycles to trucks, waiting on both sides of railway crossings. This happens because the railway crossings are kept closed for inordinately long periods of time. The situation is worse if these crossings are close to a city, big or small. This causes a lot of inconvenience to the people. A great deal of their precious time is lost in waiting. They are unnecessarily delayed in reaching offices, hospitals, colleges, railway stations, airports, etc. Their patience runs out. When the gates finally open, there is a scramble to cross over, resulting in accidents and injuries.

It is high time that the railway crossings should be done away with. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to inform the House whether the Railways would undertake a phased programme to replace the railway crossings with overbridges and underpasses so that the road traffic can move on smoothly and the people can use their valuable time on things more useful than waiting in interminable traffic snarls.

**(IV) Need to amend the rules for identification of Tsunami affected People in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, last December 26, Tsunami made the Tamil Nadu seashore area totally abandoned and people's life miserable. Lakhs of people lost their houses, boats, fishing nets, etc. Nearly ten thousand people died in this Tsunami disaster. Thousands of acres of agricultural and salt land were also affected by the Tsunami. The Central Government announced the Rajiv Gandhi Tsunami Relief Fund with a subsidy of 35 per cent. Our Finance Minister made a statement that if the State Government officials identified the Tsunami affected people and submitted the names to the banks, the banks would clear the loan with subsidy within 24 hours. But unfortunately, in my constituency, the A.D., Fisheries or the District Collectorate have not given the list of affected people to the banks concerned. Thousands of fishermen's property, houses and large agricultural land were affected by the Tsunami but the people did not get the subsidy and bank loan.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to amend the rules for identification of the affected people to get the subsidised loan distributed amongst the Tsunami affected people as announced by the Central Government. I suggest that the Members of Parliament of the areas concerned may be permitted to identify the affected people and facilitate the Tsunami affected people to get their subsidy and loan.

**(v) Need to take suitable measures for promoting production of bio-diesel in the country**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): India is spending about Rs. 1,17,000 crore for import of crude oil every year. With a view to cut-down this heavy expenditure on the import of crude oil, the Government is considering various ways to support itself to meet the escalating need of crude oil. After a sustained thinking, the Government discovered a way to counter the crude oil import and decided to promote bio-diesel production in its place. As a good start, our hon. Minister of Petroleum has announced setting up of a high-level Committee to evolve the ways for promotion of bio-diesel production in the country by cultivation of jetropha, pongamia plant seeds which could be used for extraction of bio-diesel. Jetropha plant is suitable for cultivation in any kind of soil and needs a little water to grow. It is a cash crop and any agriculturist who grows this crop is certain to become wealthy. As bio-diesel is pollution-free fuel, environment will also be not affected. If produced in good quantities, the Government has also agreed to purchase at Rs. 25/- per litre which is more economical to consumers as compared to crude oil.

At present our country is not producing sufficient quantities of jetropha and pongamia seeds. For cultivation of quality seeds and setting up of processing units, we have to import quality seeds of jetropha and pongamia.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for exemption of customs duty on the import of quality seeds, excise duty and VAT exemptions and Income Tax exemption on the income derived from the production of bio-diesel treating it as an agricultural income. In view of this, necessary directions may be issued to NABARD for extending credit facility to the farmers and entrepreneurs who are engaged in the cultivation of jetropha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal – not present; Shri G. Karunakara Reddy – not present; Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar – not present.

**(vi) Need to open Regional Office of Provident Fund at Surat, Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, there are about 8 lakh Provident Fund accounts in my parliamentary constituency Surat and a notification for opening of a regional Provident Fund office in Surat was issued on 4 March, 2005 but this office has been set up in Vadodara instead where there are only 4.5 lakh accounts. The industries under GIDC are more in Surat than in Vadodara and the number of workers too is greater in Surat than Vadodara. Therefore, passing of this benefit to the area having lesser number of PF accounts instead of the district having more numbers of PF accounts is not justified.

I request the Government that keeping in view the large number of accounts in Surat and that more and more workers should get benefit, a regional office of Provident Fund, as was sanctioned for the said purpose, should be set up accordingly.

*[English]*

**(vii) Need to provide better passenger amenities at the railway stations falling in Satna and Katni districts in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards the problems of the Satna, Mehar, Jaitwar, Mazhgavan, Khootha, Lagargawa, Uchehra, Bhadanpur, Pakria, Amdara, Zhukehi and Khanna Banjari etc. railway stations falling under the Satna and Katni districts in my parliamentary constituency.

A DRM office and a factory manufacturing cement plate should be opened in Satna. A new train should be introduced from Satna to Mumbai and from Mehar to Chitrakoot Dham. I urge that all the demands like providing of compensation to the people died or injured in the Khootha railway station accident which occurred in August, 2005, construction of a railway overbridge at Mehar, re-introduction of the first class AC compartment in Mahakaushal and Rewa-New Delhi Express, electrification of the railway route from Katni to Naini and Rewa, expediting the construction work of Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line alongwith increasing the passenger facilities on all the said railway stations; as mentioned in the memo-

randum given to the hon. Prime Minister at the time of "Rail Roko Andolan" on 21 November on all stations, should be met.

**(viii) Need to include Ajmer district under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, Ajmer is a very backward district. The number of the people living below poverty line and those belonging to the scheduled castes and backward classes is very large here. Agricultural production is almost negligible due to continuous low rain fall and severe drought like situation has arisen since the last 4-5 years. All the crops of the farmers have been destroyed. The farmers are too much under the burden of loan. The wells, ponds, bawaris and the sources of irrigation and drinking water have dried up due to extremely low rain fall. Livestock is also diminishing due to lack of fodder and as a result the number of unemployed persons is increasing rapidly. The people are forced to leave their home and immigrate to the metro cities in search of livelihood. It is absolutely necessary to provide employment in the rural areas in this adverse situation so that the people can get their livelihood.

Therefore, the Government is requested that, in the wider public interest, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented by including district Ajmer in it without delay.

**(ix) Need to allocate funds for the project meant to check erosion caused by river Ganges in Nawadwip parliamentary constituency, West Bengal**

*[English]*

SHRI ALKESH DAS (Nawadwip): Sir, my constituency of Nawadwip in West Bengal, Nawadwip, the birth place of Shree Chaitnya, is affected due to severe soil erosion by the river Ganges. This town is internationally reputed cotton textile centre and has a great cultural heritage which is an inspiration to our State. Following the idea of Shree Chaitnya, still now both the communities, that is Hindus and Muslims reside here and in surrounding areas unitedly. The river Ganges is gradually capturing this town. As a result, farming land and a number of houses have been destroyed.

For the survival of this town, I request the Government

to allocate money for the project to protect the people due to erosion caused by river Ganges.

**(x) Need to formulate a Master Plan to check recurring floods in Tamluk parliamentary constituency, West Bengal**

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, Purba Medinipur Zila in my Tamluk parliamentary constituency in the State of West Bengal is surrounded by rivers such as Rupnarayan, Ganga (Hoogly River), Haldi, Keleghai, Kangsaboti, Kapaleswari and Chandia on sides and is heavily flood-prone area.

This year two times our vast area was flooded, first time due to overflow of river water and second time due to heavy rains. This catastrophe takes place every year due to the following reasons:

- (1) Closure of drainage system due to heavy siltation in almost all major canals.
- (2) Almost all sluices are obsolete. These are non-functional.
- (3) Heavy siltation in river bed of Ganga (Hoogly), Rupnarayan, Haldi, Keleghai, Chandia and Kapaleswari.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Water Resource to formulate a Master Plan for Tamluk and Haldia sub-divisions with following salient features:

- (1) Desiltation of the river Haldi.
- (2) Desiltation of the River Rupnarayan.
- (3) Desiltation of the river Ganga (lower portion Hoogly).
- (4) Desiltation of Keleghai, Chandia, Kapaleswari and Kangsaboti.
- (5) Protection of embankments of river Rupnarayan, Haldi, Keleghai, Baghai, Kapaleswari, Chandia and Kangsabati.
- (6) Reconstruction of all sluices on canals connecting these rivers to match depth of rivers and canals.
- (7) Re-excavation of Hijli Tidal Canal and Orissa Coast Canal in full.

- (8) Re-excavation of all connected canals with these rivers, and
- (9) Strengthening of Sea Dyke from Digha to Haldia.
- (xi) **Need to review the survey report for laying a railway line between Bhatni and Gopalganj**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the survey work for Bhatni-Gopalganj new railway line has been conducted. I have been informed that this railway line is proposed to be laid through the residential area of Tendua village under pressure from land owners and if it is implemented a temple would have to be demolished for construction of railway line. Due to it there is tension that area. Local people are resorting to agitation. Public interest and houses of the poor have not been kept in mind in this survey. These poor farmers have been living in this village since the time of their ancestors. The expenditure of the railways will increase and the speed of the train will be affected as the railway line has been diverted. I request the Central government through the House to review the survey report and to change the survey of railway keeping in view the loss to the people. The proposed railway line be crossed by side of the village and made straight. The people, whose land falls on railway line, be paid compensation at present rate and a member of their family be employed in railway.

- (xii) **Need to allocate funds from the revenue collected through cess levied on paper and paperboard for development of these industries in Buldhana parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra**

*[English]*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Through you, Sir, I would like to draw to the attention of the Government that the cess levied on paper and paperboard under Industries Development Regulation Act, 1951 has not been spent on the development of paper industries. As per the information available with me, paper cess shall be spent only for development of paper and paperboard industries.

Sir, near about 20 paper mills are set up in my parliamentary constituency Buldhana in Maharashtra, which is the highest in Maharashtra. A huge amount is collected through cess on paper and paperboard from my

constituency. And so far no funds have been allocated out of the revenue collected through cess for the development of paper and paperboard industries in my constituency.

Sir, I request the hon. Minister of Finance and hon. Minister of Small-scale Industries to pay special attention towards development of paper and paperboard industries in my constituency and allocate funds from the revenue collected through cess levied on paper and paperboard under the Industries Development Regulation Act, 1951. Recently the Government of Maharashtra has declared ban on use of plastic bags. Hence, the need for paper and paperboard will enhance tremendously in Maharashtra.

- (xiii) **Need to send more battalions of CRPF to Orissa with a view to curb naxalite activities in Sambalpur and Deograh districts of the State**

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, there has been an increase in Maoist violence in the districts of Sambalpur and Deogarh, which are as of now not covered under the nine naxalite affected districts in the State of Orissa. Eight civilians and one police personnel have been killed in three separate incidents in Sambalpur district during this year. It is estimated that more than 60 armed cadres with sophisticated weapons are operating in the two districts under two to three groups. While the State Government have deployed State Armed Forces, the State's security forces have also diverted one company of CRPF to Sambalpur. It has become necessary to augment CRPF presence in the State to combat the growing naxalite activities in the area and also protect sensitive border area between Orissa and Jharkhand. The State Government has, therefore, requested for three additional companies of CRPF. At present, three battalions of CRPF are deployed in the State. But more CRPF forces may kindly be sent to Orissa to control the growing naxalite menace in the State and to protect the poor adivasis and civilians.

- (xiv) **Need to release adequate compensation package to the people affected by severe floods in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Respected Chairman, Sir, heavy rains in several parts of Tamil Nadu in the past month had indiscriminately affected the people from all walks of life. Almost all the reservoirs and dams are overflowing. The belated flood control measures could not save several dwelling units on the shores of the rivers and

rivulets. The bunds of small and very old tanks were damaged which led to huge crop loss. Incessant rains in all major towns including Chennai city led to severe damage to roads and water stagnation. These floods caused by rains inundated several residential areas at many places in Tamil Nadu.

I urge upon the Union Government to direct the Government of Tamil Nadu to issue a White Paper on the loss of lives and property, the extent of crop damage, the extent of destruction of dwelling units and the amount provided by the State Government towards relief work. The State Government must be directed to take into confidence the Members of Parliament of both the Houses. I also urge upon the Union Government to rush in Rs. 5,000 crore as compensation package to take up relief work on war footing.

**(xv) Need to set up a Bulk Milk Centre at Chamrajanagar, Karnataka for the benefit of milk producers in the region**

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): I am repeatedly requesting the Centre to set up a Bulk Milk Centre in Chamrajanagar, Karnataka. The number of milk producers is increasing day by day and they are all very poor people. Unfortunately, in this district, the milk marketing facility is not good. The milk producers are incurring huge losses. They are not able to pay interest on the loan that they have taken from banks and other financial institutions. Therefore, there is an urgent need to set up Bulk Milk Centre in my Constituency. This will enable the milk producers to produce many milk products like chocolates, ice-cream, etc.

The hon. Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, assured a grant of Rs. 6.5 crore, but unfortunately, nothing has been done in this matter. He has to keep up his promise which he made to the people of my Constituency in this regard. Till today, no action has been taken by the Centre in this matter. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to set up a Bulk Milk Centre in Chamrajanagar without any further delay.

**(xvi) Need to instruct the Chandigarh Administration to frame a just equitable and people oriented rehabilitation policy before acquiring land from them**

*[English]*

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr.**

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada

Chairman, Sir, 28 villages were completely uprooted to build the capital city of Chandigarh in 1950s. The displaced persons, having lost their hearths and homes, settled in the adjoining villages. In most cases, they are now being uprooted again along with other lower-middle class families settled in these villages to make way for further development. While the Chandigarh U.T. Administration's policies have led to abnormal sky-rocketing of prices of real estate, the poor residents of these villages are sought to be deprived of their modest dwelling units for a pittance. Such development which would result in rendering poor residents houseless would be iniquitous. The minimum that local oustees deserve is a plot of equivalent size in the developed area – not just a few thousands of rupees for a plot which can be sold for lakhs.

I urge the Government to instruct the Chandigarh Administration to frame a just and equitable rehabilitation policy before displacing people of their small plots of land through acquisition. Land-owners must now become partners in progress and development.

16.40 hrs.

**PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

**AND**

**STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA (PROHIBITION OF  
IMPROPER USE) BILL, 2004**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Items 13 and 14 together. The Minister of Home may move that the Bills be taken into consideration.

*[Translation]*

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Minister of Home Affairs I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 be taken into consideration."



[Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

"That the Bill for Prohibition of Improper use of State Emblem of India for professional and commercial uses and matter connected therein or ancillary thereto be taken into consideration."

Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 was enacted to punish the insulting acts of burning, trampling and deforming the State emblems publicly. With other things there is a provision of punishment in section 2 of this act for insulting and showing disrespect to the national flag. One of the way to show disrespect to the national flag is to use it as a part of dress or uniform or to draw or print it out on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins or any dress material.

Generally the common citizens, specially the players has been demanding at times to exhibit the national flag on their headgear, T-shirt, waist etc. for expressing their love for it. Departmentally related Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs were also of the view that the restriction/prohibition imposed in explanation 4(e) of section-2 are discouraging ones for common men and players.

Therefore, it is proposed that explanation 4(e) under section 2 of Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (amended in 2003) be amended and provision for using the national flag by the people in their dress with honour be made. At the same time preventive measures be also taken so that the national flag may not be used as a part of dress or uniform, or anything worn below the waist, nor it be drawn or printed out on any dress material of daily use like cushions, handkerchiefs, towels.

The State emblem of India is an authorized seal of the Government. Its print on any document or thing gives an impression that it is a government document or thing. Therefore, there is a need to prevent its use by unauthorized persons. Many cases of misuse of State Emblem of India due to lack of legislation have come to the knowledge of the Government.

It is proposed that a self-contained Bill be introduced to regulate the use of the State Emblem of India so that:

(i) The general public including retired/Ex-government officials/public servants etc. may be prohibited from making use of it unless they are specially authorised to do so by the Union Government;

(ii) the misuse of the State Emblem of India for

professional and commercial purposes and matters related or relevant thereto may be prohibited; and

(iii) use by government functionaries may be regulated.

The proposed legislation also contains penal provisions under which any person who uses the Emblem of India in an unauthorised/improper manner or for professional and commercial purposes, is liable to be sentenced to two years imprisonment or fine upto Rs.5000 or both.

Sir, with these words I recommend that the Prevention of Insults of National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of improper use) Bill, 2005 may be taken for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion moved:

"that the Bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 be taken in consideration"

"that the Bill relating to the prohibition of improper use of the State Emblem of India for professional or commercial purposes and the matters related or relevant thereto be taken into consideration"

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Mr. Chairman, I fully support both the important Bills presented by the Government, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and the State Emblem of India (prohibition of improper use) Bill, 2005. We attained independence by making thousands of sacrifices, after facing the lathis of the British, after enduring torture in the dark cells of prison of Andaman, after thousands of mothers lost their sons, after thousands of wives became widow and after thousands of people faced the gallows. Thousands of people fell to the britishers' bullets while raising the slogan of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jaihind' yet they did not stop chanting these slogans.

We have a national flag and I want to say something in its honour. Our country attained independence on 15th August 1947. Subsequently our National Flag and the National Emblem were selected.

16.50 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

All these are symbols of our nation's identity. Our constitution is a sacred document for us and on the basis of this constitution our country is governed. Similarly national flag was selected and described in the constitution and it is more dear than life to us. How unique our flag is? The topmost part of the flag is saffron, the middle part is white and the lower part is green in colour. At the centre is a deep blue wheel, the symbol of our unity, love and harmony. This flag is the most attractive to all of us. The very sight of the flag invokes the feelings of sacrifice in us. Thousands of soldiers who defend the borders of the motherland willingly lay down their lives for the honour of this flag. Such a sacred flag is a matter of great honour for us and we can never tolerate insult to this flag.

Sir, I through you, would like to state that our national flag is the symbol of nation's strength. This is also the symbol of communal harmony and constitutional & political identity. For instance, when Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won the silver medal in shooting event in Athens, it seemed that silver medal was the indication of his victory but when he received the medal wrapped in our nation's tricolour and our nation's tricolour was waved in the presence of millions of Indians then we felt that Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore representing crores of Indians had added to the honour and prestige of our great nation India. This is the symbol of India's honour, pride and strength. It is our sacred duty to see that our tricolour do not ever fly low.

I would like to congratulate the Government because earlier we could hoist our tricolour only on the occasion of national days like 26th January, 15 August, 2nd October or on such other special occasions. National Emblem inscribed over our currency could be used only on special occasions. My friend Shri Jindal and General Sahib are present here in the House, they thought that as Citizens of USA, England or France can fly their national flag on the occasions other than the days of national importance at their homes, skyscrapers, vehicles and derive inspiration and pride, likewise our citizens too should be given the permission to use their national flag. They filed a writ in the Supreme Court of India in the year 1995 and waited and fought the case for 10 long years. The result was that in the year 2003-04, decision was taken that India's

national flag could be flown on the occasions other than national days and on special occasions on buildings or vehicles with due respect. Thereafter, use of national flag began in the game of cricket also. For this, I would like to thank General Sahib. A Cricket match was played between India and Pakistan, Indian players sported the national flag on their sport uniforms and on their foreheads, Ganguli also had sought permission for it.

All stated and the BCCI also stated that when the Ministry of Home Affairs gives the necessary permission to use the national flag on their hats, bats and on their uniforms, only then they will use it, otherwise not.

The case was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Officers accorded the necessary permission that players can use the national flags above the waist and it cannot be used down the waist. Precisely for this purpose, this Bill has been brought forward to impart validity to these parameters and also to ensure that the national flag is used on right occasions and its dignity and honour is not diluted in any situation. The things which should be avoided have been mentioned there. The national flag cannot be used for petty things. It should not be used for handkerchiefs or napkins. It has been mentioned in it that any hero or heroine should not use it for wrong purposes. Besides, the national flag should not be used in cushions etc. The national flag can be used to embellish the clothes to be worn above waist, considered as decent, to get inspiration and to instill patriotic feelings.

Sir, we all watch cricket matches. When India wins and fans hoist the Indian flag then a feeling of love flows in our hearts. "Vaastav mein jo bhara nahin hai bhavon se, bahati jisme ras dhar nahin wah pathar hai, jisme swadesh ka pyar nahin." The tricolour has always provided inspiration for instilling the love for the motherland and sacrificing our life for it and keep its honour high. It reminds us of the sacrifice made by the great men of our country and the revolutionary activities of our revolutionaries who were hanged. Ramprasad Bismil had said, "Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna ab hamare dilon mein hai, dekhna hai ki kitna jor baju-e-katil mein hai". Whether it was shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Baba Saheb Ambedkar or other revolutionaries like Sawarkar brothers who sacrificed their life for mother India our flag reminds us the sacrifices of all of them. The respect and the honour of the national flag should be maintained. I support it with all my heart. In the coming

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

times, we should all stand up whenever this flag is hoisted. The time when it can be hoisted in the offices should also be kept in mind. The honour of the flag is the honour of our nation. The sentiments behind the national flag and the ideals symbolised by its different colours should be imbibed by us in our life so that we could say that our country or society is a powerful Nation. Then we would be able to say with pride that as Ganga is the best among the rivers, Sheshnag is the best among the snakes, Kalpavriksha is the best among the trees; so is our country, India is the best among all the nations.

From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Gujarat to Nagaland; we should all uphold the honour of India. I am sorry to say that sometimes people lose their mental balance during agitation and burn the national flag. It is an insult. Such people who insult or misuse the national flag or constitution or the national emblem; should be punished strictly in accordance with the provisions in this regard.

With these words, I support the Bill and also the occasions for this purpose mentioned in it.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, I would like to submit through you. I would conclude in one minute. The sense of nationalism is decreasing in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a very big tree and thousands of birds were sitting on that tree. A foolish man was passing from there. He had a canister of Kerosene oil in his hand. In an act of foolishness he sprayed Kerosene oil over the tree and lit it with matches. The tree began to burn and the birds started chirping. A person like you was going through that way and a person like me said:

"Aag lagi is ped ko jalne lage paat  
turn kyon jalte pankharuon pankh turnhare saath."

Then a wise man like you replied -

"Phal khai is ped ke gande kine paat  
Yahi hamara dharam hai jalen isi ke saath."

Therefore, let us all die for the sake of our motherland. It has been rightly said by Shri Makhanlal Chaturvedi-

"Chhah nahin surbala ke gahano mein guntha jaaun  
Chhah nahin premi mala mein bindh pyari ko laichauun  
Chhah nahin samraton ke shav par he hari dala jaaun

Chhah nahin dewon ke sir par chadun bhagya par lithaun  
Mujhe tod lena wanmali us path par dena mujhe phenk  
Jis par javen matrbumi ko sheesh chadhane veer anek."

With these words, I thank you.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Thank you Deputy Speaker Sir, for granting me permission to speak on this very important Bill of national importance. Sir, I rise to support the Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

It is a historical Bill and it is a Bill which is very-very close to my heart. I am very-very grateful to the hon. Home Minister for introducing this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): If you speak in Hindi that would be much better. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: It would be better if you speak in Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Nationality is being discussed. I feel that it would be better if you speak in Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It depends upon the members in which language they want to speak

[English]

He can speak either in English, Hindi, Punjabi or whichever language he likes. Do not interrupt, it is his maiden speech.

\* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshehra): I shall also speak in Hindi in my speech. I do not interrupt anyone in the House, when you speak. I humbly request all of you to listen attentively to whatever I speak today. This issue is very close to my heart. Please listen to it. I shall also speak in Hindi in my speech.

[English]

I would like to thank all the hon. Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, who unanimously supported this Bill. The Chairperson of the Committee also wrote to the Home Minister on this. I am very-very grateful to all of them. I would like to start by sharing my experience. In 1990 I was in the United States of America. I was so inspired by seeing the Americans displaying their National Flag all over their homes and offices with so much of pride and affection. I used to draw so much of inspiration from them. Seeing the Americans flying their National Flag with so much of pride, I also wanted to fly an Indian Flag in America. An American friend of mine gifted me an Indian Flag in America and I cannot explain the happiness, the joy, the inspiration I felt when first time – I was 20 years old at that time.

[Translation]

The feelings that I had that time when I took tricolour flag in my hand, cannot be expressed but can only be realised by all of us.

[English]

I was then the President of my University and I wanted to display the Indian Flag in the American University of Texas in Dallas. When I wanted to display the Indian Flag there, I had an apprehension. I thought, if I fly an Indian Flag in America maybe people will object to it. I asked the people there, 'was it okay if I flew an Indian Flag here?' They said that there was no problem. They told me that it was cool and I could fly it there. So, for one year I kept on flying the Indian Flag in America and I used to feel so happy every time I saw the flag. When I came back to India in 1992 and wanted to fly the Flag in a factory premise in Raigarh, in Madhya Pradesh at that time, I was stopped.

Sir, I flew the flag on the 26th of January, like Shri Rawat said that it was allowed to be flown only on certain occasions. I flew the flag on 26th January, 1993. Next day when I was walking by that place I saw that the flag was not there. I asked as to why the flag was removed. I was told that we could fly the flag only on certain days of the year. I said it was all right. But after having walked a few steps I thought as to why we should be allowed to fly the national flag only on certain days of the year. While in America we could fly our national flag everyday, in India – just because I want to show my love for and my faith in my country – why can we not fly the national flag everyday? I turned back and said that they should keep flying the national flag everyday and that we would see who stops us from doing so. For the next one and half years, everyday we flew the national flag in our company premises. I just wanted to show that by flying the national flag in the company premises all the people working there will get a feeling that they not only are working for the company, but also working for the country. To inculcate this feeling amongst us all, I wanted to fly the flag. But the Government authorities always kept me, sometimes the Collector, sometimes the Superintendent of Police wanted to stop me from flying the national flag. But I said that if we could not fly our own national flag with pride and honour in our own country, then where else in the world would we be allowed to do so?

Sir, one day the Commissioner, Bilaspur was visiting Raigarh and he sent for the Superintendent of Police and got the flag removed from the company premises. Then I was only 24 years old. When I was told in Delhi that the flag had been removed, I was in tears. I felt, 'what is this? In our own country can we not fly our national flag?' At that time I filed a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court against this. This Writ Petition was decided by the Delhi High Court in seven months and the court issued a *mandamus* stopping the Government from interfering with my right to fly the national flag.

Sir, what stopped us from flying the national flag was the Flag Code of India. The Flag Code of India is merely Executive instructions issued by the Home Ministry. The Prevention of insults to National Honour Act, 1971, states that if any person in public view burns, mutilates, defaces, tramples upon or says words, spoken or written, against the flag, then it is showing disrespect for the national flag. But if one is respectfully flying the national flag, then he or she is not dishonouring the national flag in anyway.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

After the judgement of the Delhi High, Court, the Government of India approached the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court put a stay on the judgement of the High Court. But I continued to fly the national flag even though I have the highest regard and respect for the Supreme Court. I got a legal opinion from a very senior counsel and he said that it would not amount to contempt of the Supreme Court. So, I continued to fly the national flag. The Collector of Raigarh had complained to the Home Ministry about this and the Home Ministry filed a contempt of Supreme Court case against me and the Superintendent of Police, Raigarh gave a report -

[Translation]

In spite of the direction of Hon. Supreme Court, hoisting of national flag is continued with complete national feelings. There is a contempt of orders of hon. Supreme Court in it but the national flag is being respected. A contempt case against me was filed. Then my lawyer advised me to remove the flag for some time. I told him that he had given the legal opinion that we could hoist the flag and there would be no contempt of Supreme Court.

[English]

The Counsel said, "this is just to be on the safe side." I said, 'No, I do not want to be on the safe side and. I feel very strongly about it. I want to fly the national flag and I want to be inspired by my national flag everyday of the year.' The matter went on for seven years in the Supreme Court and I am very happy to inform you all, though all of you are already aware, that on 23rd January, 2004, the Supreme Court of India declared it as a Fundamental Right under Freedom of Speech and Expression of article 19 (1) of the Constitution of India.

I want more and more people, because it is the greatest symbol of our country, to display the national flag and most importantly, live by the ideals of the national flag. When I say ideals, I mean by the ideals of the national flag and the ideals of the flag are the same as that of our Republic. It represents the ideals of secularism, democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity as enshrined in our Constitution. It is the greatest symbol of unity in diversity.

[Translation]

When a person hoists a national flag on his house, he rises above his religion, above his political party and

expresses that he loves the country and he is a true Hindustani. Our flag will always remind us of our duty towards our nation. After that, when I was struggling for this cause...

[English]

millions of people, cutting across party lines, have supported me in this cause for which I am grateful to them. I am very grateful to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. She also supported me in my cause for the struggle for being able to fly the national flag.

[Translation]

I would like to tell the House that it is for the first time in the history that we have got the right to hoist our national flag. Thousands of years ago, be it was Ramrajya, Ashoka period, Maurayan period or Moughal period, we have been ruled by emperors and flags also were their own. People were never allowed to use flag. Then our country got freedom and became a republic. As Rawatji has said that lakhs of people made sacrifice to liberate our country and our national flag played an important role in it. But even after getting freedom and becoming a democratic republic our national flag remain as official flag and only the people who happen to be in power were entitled to hoist it at their houses. For the first time in the history we get an opportunity to display our highest national emblem at our houses and thus get an inspiration from it to work for the country. It is my dream to get inspiration from our national flag, do my duty earnestly and keep the national interest above all. You should do your duty honestly, policemen would do their duties, teachers would do their own duties and if all this happens, I think our country can become one of the best countries of the world. With these sentiments we are going ahead.

On 22 July, 1947, when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru moved a motion for adoption of the Tricolour as national flag he said in his speech that -

[English]

"I remember, and many in this House will remember, how we look up to this flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with tingling in our veins and also how when we were sometimes down and out, the sight of this flag gave us courage to go on. Then, many who are not present here today, many of our comrades who have

passed held on to this flag, some amongst them even unto death, and handed it over as they sank, to others to hold it aloft."

And Sarojini Naidu had said:

"Remember, under this flag, there is no prince and there is no peasant; there is no rich and there is no poor; there is no privilege, there is only duty, responsibility and sacrifice. Whether we be Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs or Zorastrians and others, our Mother India has one undivided heart and one indivisible spirit."

[Translation]

The national flag about which our founding fathers have said so much remained an official flag. I am happy that our dream has come true. We can display our national flag everyday. Today this Bill has been introduced. As Shri Rawaji said that on one occasion in 2003, when Sachin Tendulkar was wearing our national flag on his helmet the Government at that time.

[English]

Out of their concern for the dignity of the flag, they made some amendments in the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act which got included under Section (ii), Explanation IV. Clause 'e'. If any person wears a national flag on his clothes or gets it embroidered, then it is disrespect to the national flag which will be punishable. I felt that it was incorrect. It may be that out of their concern to protect the dignity of the flag this was done. But I feel that this needs to be amended.

[Translation]

I would also like to tell you that the Jacket I am wearing today.

I was a member of the Indian shooting team which went to Busan for the Asian Games. You will notice that the Indian Olympics Association gave us a jacket to wear. You will see that the chakra was missing in that jacket and only the three colours were there because we were not allowed to do it. Now, when the chakra is missing, then it is a half-hearted flag and that is why our performance is also half-hearted. Since the chakra is missing, the medals are also missing. When we go and represent country internationally, I often see

[Translation]

that participant from every country wear their national

flag with a sense of pride which inspire them to do the best. Sachin Tendulkar or our hon. Member Shri Sidhuji cannot display tricolour on their head whereas it can be seen in Delhi and Mumbai that people are moving around displaying American Pakistani and UK flags on their T-shirts. But if someone display our national tricolour on their cloths then it is objectionable. At that time I have requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and all the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs to take up this matter. I am grateful to them that they agreed to it. I am grateful to the Government for getting it approved in the Cabinet and introducing it here in the Parliament. Therefore, I strongly support the Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Thereafter, every person, children and elders in our homes will be able to wear T-shirts with national flag printed thereon. While I was in America, I had purchased a T-shirt there which was made in America and had the Indian flag printed on it. On its top was written India in English and "Satyamev Jayate" in Hindi below. But, if we want to purchase a T-shirt in India having flag of India thereon, then it will not be available here because doing so may land you in jail. I think that we have got an opportunity for the first time that we can depict our national flag and work for the country after getting inspiration from it. The sad thing is that for the first time we have got this opportunity but still very few people are using it. The more people use it, the more it will help in instilling patriotic feelings among people. We observe during elections that if someone hoists the Congress party flag, then he votes for the congress party. If he hoists some other party's flag, then he votes for and supports that party. Therefore, we all should hoist the Indian flag and vote for India and support India, we should not ask what our country has done for us instead our flag will always remind us what we have done for our country. You would be surprised to know that when smoking was allowed inside the Central Hall earlier, then I had requested Mr. Speaker to prohibit smoking there as a law already existed to prohibit smoking. Then smoking was prohibited there by his order. When I went to thank him, then he said that the badge of the national flag that I was wearing then was not allowed there. It came to me as big surprise by it because even after wining the case and reaching the Parliament after struggling for the last 10 years, I am being told in the Parliament that wearing the national flag is not allowed. He showed me a book and under Rule 349 of Rules of procedure and Conduct of

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

Business in Lok Sabha it was written that one cannot wear any kind of a badge. I tried to convince him that it was not a badge but a lapel pin. He told me that I should write a letter if I want to change the rules. I wrote him a letter and it has been 16 months since then. Even now many Members are wearing lapel pins. I believe that this House is the temple of our democracy. If we cannot wear the highest emblem of our country with pride here, then where else can we? American President George Bush or President Musharraf or many other prominent heads of state always wear the flag of their respective countries. We may belong to any political party or religion but we are India's first. We had also given a notice signed by 120 members in this regard. We have also given 5-6 reminders for it. I would urge that this matter should be taken up by the Rules Committee and the highest emblem of our country should be allowed to be worn in the Parliament. Poet Rajesh Chetan says in this regard that -

"Jab Saansad Sansad mein sene par Tiranga lagayega, toh Sansad mein danga karte kuch toh sharmayega." Whichever party we may belong to, we all have the same goal i.e., to work for our country and serve the 100 crore people of the country and when we will come here wearing the national flag, then every moment it will remind us our duty. Therefore, as soon as possible, it should also be permitted inside the House. Once again, I support this Bill.

The second Bill - the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of improper Use) Bill - I also support it. Many a time our Members install it on their cars, then that is also one of its misuses. There was no legislation for it earlier but now the legislation will be made more strict after introduction of this Bill. Earlier, there was a fine of Rs.500. Many a times, former members or retired officers also used to misuse the emblem of the Lion capital taken from Sarnath. This gave an impression that some official work was getting done. There was a penalty of just Rs.500 to check its misuse which was unable to check it. Now it is being raised to Rs.5000 and a provision for sentence of two years imprisonment has also been made if some will misuse it again and again. I support this Bill. There was total support for it in the Standing Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs in the Parliament. There was a consensus so that it should not be misused. I support both the Bills.

[English]

I request this august House to pass both these Bills unanimously.

[Translation]

We should all give our support unanimously.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I am very glad to support Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005. I also congratulate our Minister for bringing in such a Bill in this House. I think, there is no reservation in any side of this House with regard to the passing of this Bill.

Sir, it is true that the history of the National Flag has the history of the freedom struggle itself. But I do not want to go into the details. It is after Independence that we have the National Flag, the National Emblem, and also the Constitution of our own. Any citizen of India, whether he is inside the House or whether he is in the country or outside, he is bound to respect our National Flag, our National Emblem and also our Constitution. It is true that without respecting and giving dignity to these sectors and without giving due importance to the freedom of India, no party or no person can survive. I want to give some more instances.

There is no doubt that there is no reservation at all with regard to the merit of this Bill. We have the Bills; we have the Acts. But I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is able to implement, take action when the National Flag or the National Emblem or the Constitution is insulted, disgraced and defaced in any part of the country. It is true that some of the party Members, whether knowingly or unknowingly, think that their flag is higher than the National Flag. It is not an easy thing. I am not joking. I think, in this House itself, we, the Members from Kerala, raised the question with regard to disgracing of the National Flag. We have the instances. I do not want to name the Minister. Last year, in Calicut at Karipoor airport, it happened in the presence of the Minister who had arrived at the airport. Thousands of people were there to receive him. I do not know why these people had gone there. The Reporters, Media persons, the photographers and the Press Reporters were there. They wanted to see the Minister; they wanted to give the reports. But no Media person was allowed to go to the airport. Not only that, they were beaten up. I do remember the names of that woman Reporter, Ms. Deba of Asianet. Her dress was destroyed and even all the Media persons were taken away. It can be seen in the Visual Media. It was reported in the

newspapers that a good number of people have shown their enthusiasm. They climbed to the top of the airport and instead of the National Flag, they hoisted the flag of a political party, that is, the Muslim League flag. The story does not end there. We raised the issue here. Some of them went to court. It is very wonderful to hear that the Government has gone to the court saying that there was nothing wrong and nothing has been done there. If we go to the Visual Media, we can see that instead of the National Flag, it is the flag of Muslim League which was flying. It was really disgracing and defacing of the National Flag. In the Bill that you have brought in here, it is seen:

"Whoever in any public place or in any other place within the public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or bring into contempt the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years, or with fine, or with both."

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government concerned or the persons concerned or the police concerned are able to take action any time. I do not want to take any political advantage out of this issue. It is not a question of the Muslim League or the CPI (M) or the BJP or the Congress. It is the question of the National Flag. We discuss this issue with due importance. At the same time, the Government is giving some instructions to the Public Prosecutor. They are going to the court and saying that there is nothing wrong in it. Can we take into consideration this view of the Government? The National Flag is fully destroyed, disgraced and defaced. What is your reply? So, we can pass this Bill, no doubt. Members from all sides – from the Opposition side and the Treasury side – have great pleasure in passing this Bill.

We congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this measure. But, at the same time, I would like to know whether the Government concerned is ready to take action when it is required. We raised the issue here itself. ...*(Interruptions)* Members of Parliament raised the issue here itself. The fact is that the media persons were beaten at that time. There was no reason for that. I am really wondering why it is so! It was because of the presence of one or two Ministers there. So, when it comes within the purview of the Government, what is the duty of the Government? What is the duty of the police? What is the

duty of the officers? Should they take action or not? It means that they are not ready to give due importance to the National Flag. They are really safeguarding and protecting the persons who are destroying the image of the National Flag.

With this strong criticism, I fully support this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): It is a matter of shame for the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (Ludhiana): \*Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for allowing me this opportunity. Government has brought this Bill. This is a very good Bill. But this is not enough. I am sorry to say that many people use the national flag for their personal benefit. National flag is respected by all. Many steps should be taken to ensure that it is indeed respected. It should be accorded respect in a proper way. Sir, as we have seen, on 15th August and 26th January, we should accord respect to national flag in a proper way. But sometimes it is not done. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Whatever he is speaking is totally incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not speaking anything unparliamentary. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*\*...*

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: It is generally said that when we are hoisting the national flag, our heads should be covered by either handkerchief or cap or turban. But many people do not do so. An important point being discussed in India is that there is a political party in India whose leaders use the flag of their party on their cars. But when they are passing by, many police personnel mistake it to be the national flag and they salute it. People are

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.  
 \*\* Not recorded.



[Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhillon]

confused and do not know whether the flag bears the Ashok Chakra or the symbol of 'hand'. I think, if we want to give respect to the national flag in a proper way, then we should change the colours of the flag of Congress party. Only then can we respect the national flag in a proper way. ... *(Interruptions)* When you give the speeches, I never interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You do not know history. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*[Translation]*

Mistryjee, sit down, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: We know about history very well. Martyrs like Kartar Singh Sarabha and Bhagat Singh sacrificed their lives for the honour and prestige of this national flag. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down Mistry ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded. Hon. Minister is speaking. Dhillon Sahib, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

Dhillonji, you also sit down.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): This bill pertains to the national flag and not to the flag of the party. Any party can use its symbol and flag of the party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But that means something else. ...*(Interruptions)*

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\* Not recorded.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): It can use but it creates misunderstanding within the party. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, your turn is near.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, your turn is near.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there is no doubt that thousands of people of India sacrificed their lives to attain this revered national flag. Kartar Singh Sarabha and the great martyr Bhagat Singh gave up their lives for it. But, we will not allow the national flag to be the property of one single party. This national flag belongs to us also. We have great regard for the national flag. From the depth of our heart, we respect the national flag and we will continue to do so. But I want to emphasise that only one party's flag is similar to the national flag of India, i.e., the flag of the Congress party. It creates confusion. So the flag of the Congress party should be changed. This is my demand.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2005 and State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use), Act which has been brought in the House. The national flag got importance even prior to independence on 22nd July 1947. As hon. Members have said in the House that all who were Hindustani sacrificed during the war of independence, be he a Hindu, or Muslim or Sikh or Persian or a person of any other religion. Our national flag has been our companion of struggle in our freedom struggle. When people used to

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\* Not recorded.

see the tri-coloured flag, they used to get encouraged and it was a matter of honour during the freedom struggle. We consider the national flag to be a symbol of unity, love and co-ordination also.

This right has been given to us by our constitution. It has been mentioned in the fundamental rights. And its symbol, too, has its importance in itself. Hon. Members have discussed in the House its use in detail. I would like to say the Hon. Minister through you that there must be a limit of its use, it must not be relaxed so much so that people begin to insult it. The bill has been introduced for the same purpose. I would like to congratulate the Government as well as the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji for bringing this Bill in the House.

Three years back we got the right through a PIL that we can fly our national flag on the top of our homes, offices and industrial premises. As elucidated by my colleague, Shri Jindal that this is good that its use below the waist has been restricted. Likewise, its use on the napkin, handkerchief has also been banned because people use and throw these items which will amount to insulting the national flag. Such use therefore, has been banned in the Bill also. This should not happen. Some days back, it was Sunday, I was passing by in Delhi and when I reached near India Gate, I saw that the tricolour was flying in the upside down position at Sena Bhawan. I felt quite awkward. I immediately drove my car to Sena Bhawan, though it was Sunday. I directed the guard deployed there to correct the position of the flag. Therefore, trained persons should be assigned the job to hoist the flag at the army, naval and airforce headquarters and in any other government offices so that they could salute and respect the flag in the proper manner. As our esteemed colleague was stating about the Congress Party that their flag is tricolour with Charakha (spinning wheel) or hand or any other election symbol in the centre. It does create confusion about the national flag. I have seen our Congress brethren as I myself was in the Congress Party that they, out of sheer enthusiasm, hoist the flag upside down. I immediately take notice of it. Therefore, I would request them to hold a training camp for leaders and workers so that this mistake is not repeated. Be it party flag or the national flag.

I was stunned when I was in Allahabad. My area falls in Allahabad. At that time, Shri Praful Kumar Mahanta was the Chief Minister of Assam. He was to come there. I had

also gone there to receive some one. Shri Praful Kumar Mahanta got down from the train and sat in the car. The taxi of roadways or the car has the national flag on it. The car could be of any State but it has the national flag fitted on it. It has a tricolour with chakra in its centre. All the party workers of Janata Dal or other felt bad about it. They all asked him not to go by that car until it had their party flag on it. I was witness to all this scene. Someone from us becomes Chief Minister, M.P. or MLA. During elections, election is fought on the basis of party. We may have different opinions but after getting elected we represent the entire area as MP or MLA or become a Chief Minister of the entire State. But the national flag has to be honoured always. You won't believe, until the party flag was fitted on to the car, his car was not allowed to proceed further. Such awkward situations do occur at times and then the question of honour and insult of National flag arises.

About sports I have read in this Bill that the Indian sports persons, to whatever sport they may be associated with, be it Vollyball, Hockey, Shooting, can display our national flag on their T-shirts, cap, bat or helmet or on other sports instruments used in their sport. To my mind it is not bad. This should be allowed and honoured. This encourages the sports persons and fill them with the feelings of patriotism. This infuses the feeling among the sports persons that they are playing for the country. As one hon. Member has referred to the event of winning a medal by Shri Rathore ji in shooting in Olympics. He proudly wrapped himself in the national flag. We saw this scene on Television and it was thrilling to see him wearing our national flag. It was an honour to our national flag and it is great encouragement to the sports persons to perform better. Therefore we should give relaxation in this regard whatever discipline of sports it may be.

I have been to Lucknow recently. There is district Raebareli from where Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has been elected to this House. We were coming out of Naresh Sweet House after having breakfast and we saw that a Gutkha is being sold there by the name of 'Vidhayak Gutkha'. I said to myself that after sometime 'Sansad Gutkha' will also be available in the market. I bought four-five sachets thereof so that I could show that here in the House. I was not aware that this Bill is going to come up today otherwise I would have brought those sachets with me to display here. The word 'Vidhayak' is related to Legislature. Sale of such items should be banned. This matter was raised in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

also. At present a Gutkha by the name of 'Mantri' is also being sold in the market. Such products being sold by various names should be banned. As consumption of these is harmful for health. People throw pouches in the dustbin and this is disgracing to our Legislature. This should be stopped. Through Television we have come know that tallow mixed 'Dalda Vanaspati' is being sold. Such product should also be banned. Wherever our national emblems are involved such things should be banned.

I would specially like to congratulate Shri Naveen Jindal that through this Bill he will achieve the end for which he had fought. I am also the member of Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Committee on Law and Justice and incidentally I have got that honour. I had received your letter also. The emblem which you gave in the House I was coming in the House putting on that emblem for quite some time but we are always in hurry due to which I forget to put on that every day otherwise I would have been putting on that emblem every day. I have seen that you are putting on our national flag on your clothes everyday whether you are in Kurta-Payjama, Coat or Shirt-Trousers. Therefore I want to congratulate you specially. I also want to congratulate you specially for obtaining the permission for use of our national flag by common people through the Supreme Court.

With these words, I strongly support both these bills and wind up.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment), Bill 2005 and the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use), Bill 2005 introduced by the Hon. Minister. I express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister and the UPA Government for bringing both of these bills in the House. I also express my gratitude to Hon. M.P. Navin Jindalji for his continuous efforts from the court to this House in this regard. Earlier the use of national flag was allowed on the occasions of National festivals only. But today this law has given us liberty to use national flag and thereby add more dignity and pride of the nation. We have got this national flag and achieved our independence after making lot of sacrifices. There is a long history to it. I do not want to delve into how many people lost their lives and how many sacrificed their lives to get the country free. It is a long history and everyone knows it. Today, we will pay a tribute to our those ancestors in the House due to whose sacrifices we were able to

adopt this national flag, a tricolour which is also our national glory and became the citizen of free India.

Many Hon. Members have expressed themselves today. It is a good thing that now we will be able to use it at many places. But I am afraid that this flag may be misused. There is certainly an apprehension regarding its misuse. I want to request Mr. Minister that though he has made the law more stringent by enhancing the sentence it must be kept in mind that it may not be misused.

You have made the present bill more stringent one. You have prohibited the use of national flag on many things. You have mentioned in the bill that it would not be used on things like cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, dress materials, embroidery and printing etc. We are at liberty to use it. In spite of all this, I am afraid that it may be misused. We should certainly keep it in mind.

Whatever my colleague Naveen Jindalji said just now, he said it correctly. He has shared his experiences about the country and abroad. All of us have the same feelings. We all have feelings of animosity and ill will and party lines feelings towards one another, which kill love and affection among us. But we do not find all these things in foreign countries. There we feel that above all these things we all are Indians first. I would like to submit through this House that all the discriminations would disappear from the country if we have same feeling in country what we have while being abroad. This tricoloured flag is a symbol of freedom. It makes us realise that first of all we are Indians. We will be able to get rid of problems of riot, ill-will, discrimination, caste, religion if we always have the feeling of Indianness in us. The youths of India certainly have potential and calibre. With this country will be ranked No. 1 country in the world.

I would request that we have come to this House with the resolve to pass this Bill. The feelings and sentiments with which we are passing this Bill, if these feelings and sentiments remain intact in the hearts of Members, be they are from treasury benches or from opposition benches, India will continue to move forward and no power on earth can check the forward march of India. However, this is a matter of concern that today we all are getting alienated from these sentiments. We are feeling increasingly bitter. There is a paradigm shift in the thinking of today's India and that of 20 years back. People have developed mutual differences. I am making candid

confessions that we should rise above the party politics for the sake of country's progress. Today, such sentiments exist in the country. Whenever, country is faced with challenge, we rise above the party line, get united and make concerted efforts to tackle the challenge. Unity, mutual respect and fellow feeling is the need of the hour to ensure India's onward march on the path of progress.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank UPA Government and Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji who have brought out this Bill. It is utmost essential that our tricolour should fly high. When it is in danger then the jawans deployed at our borders defend it. When they hold the tricolour, it inculcates enthusiasm, sense of unity and feelings of love for the country in them. When we sleep in our homes, the jawans protect our borders. They defend the honour of tricolour and ensure country's safety and security. We would like that these feelings and sentiments should be inculcated among all Indians then only the honour of our tricolour can remain safe. This Bill will go a long way in safeguarding country's honour and pride in times to come.

With these words, I extend my sincere thanks to all members who have supported this Bill, I do hope that we shall protect the pride and honour of our tricolour and if need be, we may even lay our lives to keep the honour of national flag intact.

Sir, I once again support both the Bills and with these words, I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion and also I thank our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar and Tamil's Jupitar Talapathi M.K. Stalin.

Sir, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Bill, 2005 is the most important Bill. First of all, I thank our Home Minister for amending this Bill which makes really happy the patriots and sportsmen. In the 50s, the National flag was hoisted on the top of dwelling houses on 26th January, and 15th of August. The response was spontaneous. In many private and public functions and ceremonies, National flags were hoisted with dignity. But now such enthusiasm has faded away. People, especially children, were not taught about use and abuse of the national flag. A very few people use National symbol properly.

Sir, paper made flags are waived by spectators on occasions, namely, national cultural programmes, sports events, etc. and such flags are thrown on the ground after the event. This should not happen. People should be educated properly for the usage of flags.

Anti-social elements indulge in various acts like burning, mutilating, defacing, defiling, disfiguring, destroying, etc. thus bringing the flag into contempt. These are offences, and can be punished with imprisonment or with a fine or with both. The Government should follow it.

Now, a person can have clothes or the caps with the tricolour printed on it with respectful manner. But it has also been proposed not to have printing of tricolour on the garments which are used below the vests. The use of tricolour is prohibited for pillows, gloves, napkins, handkerchiefs and underwears. This decision of the Government is worth appreciate. The National flag is an indication of every one's dignity and respect.

Sir, the guidelines on the uses of flag must be propagated among school children, etc. It may also be included in the school curriculum. The common people should also know the guidelines for the uses of National flag. They are not aware of the importance of the uses or abuses. This problem can be overcome by having propaganda in TV, radio and newspapers. The flag can and should be used widely by more citizens but should not be reduced as a fashion accessory. The honour and respect of the National flag will be protected by this Bill.

I support this Bill on behalf of DMK.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna. Now, it is 1800 hours and I have 14 more Members to speak on this very Bill. If the House agree, I think the discussion in this Bill will continue tomorrow. After this speaker, we will take up the Special Mentions.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

18.00 hrs.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiyarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the issue relating to our tricolour symbol of national honour and pride.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khannaji, please speak tomorrow. We shall continue discussion on this Bill tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House would take up special mentions.

Shri Anant Gudhe — not present,

Shri Shailendra Kumar — not present

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, under Punjab reorganization Act Haryana came into existence after the division of Punjab in the year 1966. There was Shah Commission report about this division and according to that report Chandigarh, Kharad Tehsil and villages of Fazilka were to be given to Haryana. Sir, 39 years have elapsed since then but that report has not been implemented fully till date.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the time of division Chandigarh was made temporary capital of both the states and a joint High Court of Punjab and Haryana was made. It was a temporary arrangement. But about forty long years have elapsed since then but Haryana neither got a separate High Court nor a separate capital. The people of Haryana are very disappointed with this state of affairs. Thousands of crores of rupees are being spent every year because Chandigarh is the part of Haryana. Same is the story about water. The matter of SYL canal has not been settled so far. Iradi Commission had passed a judgement according to which Haryana should get its share of water but Haryana has not got its share of water till date. Similarly, the award given by Shrimati Indira Gandhiji has also not been implemented and Haryana is not getting its share of water from SYL canal. This matter between the two states is lingering on for the last forty years. When this matter will be settled and when the people of both these states will get benefit of it. Therefore, through you, I demand from the Union Government that water dispute between these states be solved immediately. A separate High Court should be given to Haryana and Chandigarh which is the part of Haryana should be associated with Haryana High Court.

Mr. Deputy speaker Sir, through you I demand from the Union Government to intervene in this matter immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to request all the hon. Members that still there are 41 members to speak, therefore, please try to make your submission within the shortest possible time.

[English]

\*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): For the past four to five months there is a very big scarcity for both kerosene and LPG in Tamil Nadu. Kerosene is the household fuel for the poor especially the marginalised in the rural areas. LPG has come to stay as a common fuel in the households of the middle class. The scarcity for both these fuel has given rise to a big problem. Inadequate supply and distribution of kerosene has resulted in sky rocketing of prices of these essential commodities and black marketers are making money increasing its price by 30 to 50 rupees. Yesterday I got a written reply from the Petroleum Minister stating that production of LPG has been cut short at a time when there is acute scarcity. This is like adding insult to injury. LPG scarcity has emboldened the unfair traders and distributors to fix high prices to the tune of about Rs 500 according to their whims and fancies. The retailers also send back the people asking for their ration cards as though these fuel are distributed to people based on ration cards which is not true.

So there is an urgent need for the Government to intervene and streamline the supply and distribution system to save the people from their woes pertaining to these fuel.

\*THE MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER): I have already furnished details to this august House about the availability of LPG.

\*SHRI P. MOHAN: I have been listening to your extensive reply to the calling attention motion. But I must point out that the notice for this special mention was given much before that.

\*SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER: If it is for kerosene let me get another opportunity to come with more details.

\*SHRI P. MOHAN: So I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to help the common people overcome their problems arising out of kerosene and LPG scarcities.

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\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

\*SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): The recently concluded Dhaka SAARC Summit has deliberated upon several important issues and has arrived at certain welcome decisions. Streamlining the visa procedures removing the bottlenecks pertaining to them, avoidance of double taxation, setting up of tribunals to settle issues between the States, inclusion of Afghanistan roping in China and Japan with observer status are all quite welcome. The proposals mooted by India have been widely acclaimed. At this juncture I would like to impress upon the Government of India to take up the vexing issues pertaining to the fishermen to carry out their occupation in the high seas on the coastal lines of SAARC countries. Whenever they happen to cross the territorial waters even by accident, they are caught by the naval patrol vessels of the countries concern and they are taken away as prisoners after being confiscated of their boats and fishing tools and equipment. This has become a recurrent tragic feature. These acts of the naval forces of certain SAARC countries crush down heavily the poor families of fishermen. Their breadwinners are confined to prison thereby causing huge economic and psychological setbacks. Hence I urge upon the Government to evolve suitable measures in the SAARC forum to find a lasting solution to the problems faced by the fishermen.

All these SAARC nations must put their heads and hearts together to mitigate the sufferings of hapless fishermen of their countries.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: (Chirayinkil): Sir, the grievances of Keralites working in the Gulf countries have become acute. The Kerala Government had submitted a proposal before the Union Government towards the formation of Kerala Airlines. The proposal is under the consideration of the Government. They have also applied for exemption in the guidelines so far as sanctioning private airlines are concerned having 20 aircraft and all that. But it is a public concern and it is sponsored by the Kerala Government themselves. They are doing it for the benefit of Keralites in Gulf countries.

Now, if we see, both the national and international airlines are taxing these poor workers heavily. I may not be incorrect if I may put it that they are collecting airfare from these people equivalent to the sum required for air

travel round the globe. They are collecting charges up to New York and some other far off places. So, these poor people find it difficult to return to their houses for their household affairs.

The Kerala Government took the initiative of starting a new airline so that these poor people may get less fare than the fare of an air ticket to US which will be a boon to these workers. So, I would request the Central Government to sanction the proposal of the Kerala Government for floating a new airline with public participation. This is an urgent matter and necessary exemptions may be made so that the Government of Kerala can start functioning of the proposed new Kerala airlines.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, please allow me to associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMARAN MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to shortage of Judges in Jharkhand High Court the number of pending cases before the court is increasing day by day and people are not getting justice in time and if justice is not dispensed timely it tantamount to injustice. At present there are 12 sanctioned posts of Judges in the said High Court out of which seven posts are lying vacant due to which cases are not being heard in time and judgement is not being given in time. It is causing inconvenience to the people.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, there is no sanctioned post of Chief Justice in the Jharkhand High Court and an acting Chief Justice is carrying out the responsibilities of the Chief Justice. There are about forty thousand cases pending for admission in the said court. After filing the cases in the said court most of cases come up for first hearing after six months and some times even after more than one year. The number of cases has increased considerably after creation of Jharkhand. The lawyers of the High Court were on agitation for one month from 15th October on this issue but no action was taken in this regard. Through this House, I would like to request the Government that the vacant posts of Judges be filled up at the earliest and number of posts of Judges be increased for early disposal of the pending cases.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have read in the newspapers that the services of the public health workers who were appointed

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

all over the country on honorarium basis during the tenure of renowned socialist leader and former Health Minister of India Late Shri Rajnarayan are being terminated. These people have worked as public health workers for quite long in villages. These people stayed a dharna at Jantar Mantar recently and demanded to continue their services.

We have just held detailed discussion in the House on the amendment bill on health No. 47 (a) deciding that we shall set up primary health centers at rural level. The concept will be fulfilled only when we re-appoint those public health workers. I demand strongly that the Government re-appoint them and give them salaries at par with government employees.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Steel works Construction Ltd. was set up as a public sector undertaking for construction of Bokaro Steel Plant. This company has been in collaboration with Steel Authority of India from the very beginning. Twenty six thousands employees were employed in this undertaking. Steel Authority of India had to depend upon other units for minor works after the completion of construction works of Bokaro Steel Plant. The undertaking is in a very bad shape today. Only 1800 employees have been left with it and the company is unable to pay monthly wages to these employees in time.

Hence, I demand the Government to merge this undertaking with Steel Authority of India for keeping the separate identity of this undertaking intact on the basis of establishment cost and economic viability on the basis of income and its remaining 1800 employees with different units of SAIL taking into account the level of still of its workers in the working of steel plants as a genuine alternative.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq – not present.

Shri E. Ponnuswamy – Not present.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan – Not present.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI SIPPAPARAI RAVICHANDRAN (Sivakasi): Vanakkam. Thousands of skilled labour are going from Tamil Nadu to Gulf and South Asian countries every year.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Hundreds of students and IT professionals are going to USA and other Western countries every year both for education and jobs. As of now there are two passport offices in Tamil Nadu one in Chennai and another in Tiruchirappalli. 16 southern districts of Tamil Nadu come under Tiruchi passport office. Though every collectorate at the District headquarters have been made passport application collection centres, no great benefit has come about because processing and issuance of passport is done only in Chennai and Tiruchi passport offices. Thousands of applicants spread over 16 districts have to patiently wait for long time. This avoidable delay and waiting and also spending in travel by some passport applicants from these districts can be averted. Through this, august House our leader Vaiko has been raising a fair demand right from 2002 to establish a new passport office in Madurai. Considering the urgent importance the Union Government must come forward to open a regional passport office in Madurai. This will ease the problems and help the public especially the people from the far south districts of Tamil Nadu.

With this, I conclude thanking the Chair for the opportunity.

*[English]*

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I also associate.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri S.D. Mandlik – Not present.

Shri Santosh Gangwar – Not present.

Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi – Not present.

Shri Prabhunath Singh – Not present.

Yogi Aditya Nath – Not present.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Hon. Prime Minister through you on the memorandum submitted on 21st November during stop the Train agitation on all the railway stations in my parliamentary constituency. I demand immediate acceptance of all the demands mentioned in the memorandum submitted to Hon. Prime Minister on 21st November during stop the Train agitation for maintaining status quo in respect of Oil depots of Indian

Oil and Hindustan Petroleum in Sama district, for setting up of new Kendriya Vidyalyas in civil line of Sama districts and Kaimor of Maiher and Katni districts, for setting up of Navodaya Vidyalyas in tribal dominated Majhgawan of district Satna and Belhari village of Katni district, for renovation of National Highway No.7, 75 and 78 for inclusion of Satna and Katni districts under Employment Guarantee scheme, Food for Work Scheme and Poverty Alleviation Scheme, for immediate completion of the canal work on the right bank of Wargi Barrage, for setting up of cement industry on the mines of Steel department at Babupur village of Satna district, for introducing air service from Satna, for permission to set up rope-way in the Mother Sharda temple, and for repairing Satna – Allahabad road via Samaria.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, Bihar may be declared a backward state keeping in view the condition of Bihar and it could not develop after independence at the rate it should develop. There is lack of proper roads in Bihar; there is shortage of power, shortage of irrigation for farmers. The children of SC and ST, backward class and minorities are not getting proper education and the percentage of people living below poverty line in Bihar is more than that of people living below poverty line in entire India. Lakhs of people are migrating from Bihar every year in search of employment. There is the problem of unemployment there and therefore Bihar should be declared a backward state so that Bihar may stand in the category of other developed states. India will not gain as much strength as it should until all the states of India develop equally.

I would like to request the central Government through you to declare Bihar a backward state without fail.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has raised a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed to associate.

Dr. Ramachandra Dome – not present;

Shri Chandrakant Khaire – not present;

Adv. P. Sathedevis – not present.

SHRIP. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to

place before the Government some important issues regarding the FCI godowns in Kerala. There are about 22 FCI godowns in the State. The total storage capacity of these godowns comes to about 5.08 lakh metric tonnes. As per the stock report, they are now storing only 1.08 lakh metric tonnes. Besides, in some godowns, they have no stocks at all. This is the first time that there are godowns without any stock. Take for example the Muzhippilangod godown in Kannur District. There is no stock at all. In some parts of the northern area, that is, Kannur, Kasargod, and Calicut districts, the retail shops take the foodgrains from these main godowns.

Kerala has a very good Public Distribution System. Now, the Government or the FCI has decided to hand over these godowns to the private parties. Two of them have already been handed over, and in regard to two more godowns, they have taken a decision. It would adversely affect the Public Distribution System in Kerala. Since there is no rice or wheat in the godowns, people instead of going to the ration-shops are forced to go to the open market. Now the price of rice per kilo has gone up to Rs. 32.17. You can see the difference which the people have to pay.

Under the SGRY Scheme and Food for Work Programme, 4,000 tonnes of rice is to be supplied. It is mainly for the Tsunami-affected and flood-affected areas. However, it is not able to give this because of shortage of food grains in these godowns. Therefore, I would request the Government to give adequate foodgrains, especially rice and wheat to the FCI godowns and also to stop the decision to hand over the FCI godowns to private parties. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava – not present.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by army personnel and ex-servicemen. As we all know that army personnel are recruited at the age of 19-20 years and posted on the borders. They retire after rendering the service of 17 years. There is a need to formulate a scheme to adjust them in security forces such as BSF, CISF and CRPF so that they may serve again in security forces having rendered the service of 17 years. When the army



personnel retire, they have to resort to some other profession or business. There should be a facility to provide them loans at concessional rates for this. Their demand for one rank, one pension has been pending since long. It should be fulfilled at the earliest. At times, army personnel get other job after their retirement but if they expire while availing the two pensions, their families get only one pension. Some provision should be made by the Government so that the family of the army personnel who expire may get both the pensions. Many other facilities have to be provided to the army personnel. Their problems, too are different. Therefore, there should be separate pay commission for army personnel.

There must be a participation of soldiers, brigadiers or officer of any other rank in the pay commission so that while fixing pay scales and other benefits they are aware of the problems being faced by army personnel. I request to the Government to pay heed to the problems of army personnel and ex-servicemen and to solve it at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra  
— Not present.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister of health. Perhaps, you might be aware that the director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has issued a circular two or three days before. As per the circular, amount was collected in advance for all those tests, which were conducted free of cost. Besides that the amount of fee for conducting many other tests have also been increased by manifold. All of you know and the entire country knows that the poor and helpless patients come to AIIMS hospital on a large scale. Patients, particularly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other neighbouring states come on a large scale. The economy there is itself in a bad condition. How will they be able to get treatment from this hospital?

I want to cite 3-4 example of tests for which no fee was imposed earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please state whatever you want or demand. Do not cite examples.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV. Sir, the treatment was provided free of cost earlier but at present fee has been

imposed. How will the poor people afford to pay the money? How will they get treatment? You will be astonished to know that the fee being charged as per the new circular is more than that of good corporate hospitals. For the patient kept in private ward, the per day charges for ICU are Rs. One thousand and for the patient kept in general ward the charges are Rs.500/- a day. Not only this, a sum of Rs. twelve thousands are to be paid for test for stomach related ailments which was free of cost earlier. Earlier PTBD test was done free of cost, now the amount of seven thousand rupee has to be paid for that. The charges for Barium and anemia test were conducted for Rs. three hundred earlier, now these charges have been increased to the extent of Rs. Five hundred. The charges for simple x-ray was rupees thirty earliest, now the same has been increased to rupees seventy five. The charges for x-ray of spine was Rs.30/- which has now been increased to Rs.50/- . Similarly, one will have to pay Rs. Twenty thousands for angiography. The poor cannot afford this much money. Had they had money, they would have gone to private hospital for treatment. Thus, they have to face a lot of problems and poor people are unable to get treatment. I do not know as to under which decision such step has been taken or whether the Director of AIIMS has got the consent of the Government or not?

Whether any direction has been issued by the hon. Health Minister on behalf of the Government or not? The director is pushing the poor into the jaws of death by issuing this circular.

I urge upon you that the Government should intervene in this matter without delay. The poor people from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and adjoining states come here to save their lives. There is no hospital in Bihar. There is a proposal for setting up an AIIMS hospital there but work on that has not been started yet. Where will the poor go? I seek your protection. I urge upon you to give direction to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): It is a very serious question and you yourself must have realized from your Chair that the charges for the poor have been increased too much. This has happened for the first time and it is a strange situation. The Government should have collected information that this amount has been increased. It is a sensitive matter and hence should be taken seriously. ...*(Interruptions)* I associate myself with the subject.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should take this matter seriously.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government is a Government for the poor, therefore, the Government should think over it.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): I will convey it to the Health Minister.

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SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS-*Contd.*

18.30 hrs.

(iii) **Re: Reported detention of an Indian by American Forces in Iraq**

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the stark plight of Shri Sijo Jose, who is now in the custody of the American forces in Iraq. It is reported that for the last four months, he is in their custody. He was working in a catering firm, which supplies food to the American military bases in Iraq. So, I am informed that he was taken into custody for taking photographs of some prohibited places or such other things. Anyway, in the last four months, his relatives have been trying to contact him, trying to get information about him. I, myself, have written to the Minister of State for External Affairs regarding his plight but I am yet to get the reply. My request is that the Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs should urgently intervene and take steps to release him from their custody.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): My notice is also there on the same issue. I would like to add just one thing. The family members of Shri Sijo Jose are in great distress after hearing about the issue in Afghanistan where a person of BRO has been beheaded. For four months nothing has been heard of this particular person. He had gone there for job. He is from a very poor family. I would

like to say that the Ministry of External Affairs has not been able to find out as to what exactly has happened. It is known that this person who has gone through an agent has actually gone to Kuwait but now the family members are thinking as to whether he was in Kuwait. Family members are getting money orders also but he was getting information somewhere in the Gulf. But for the last four months nothing has been heard of. They are in real distress and the family members. The family members have approached us. The Chief Minister of Kerala has approached the Government of India. Nothing has been informed in this regard. I hope the Ministry of External Affairs would go into the matter and find out as to what exactly has happened. Shri Sijo Jose may be in the custody. He cannot say as to what is happening. There is nobody to defend him. He did not know as to what is his offence. Actually, he has committed no offence and this is what we are thinking.

I urge upon the Prime Minister, who is in-charge of the External Affairs portfolio also, in this regard. I had also written to him. But no reply has been received on this aspect. There must be some urgent response from the Government. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to inform this matter to the Minister of External Affairs as well as the hon. Prime Minister as this is a very serious issue and we do not want to hear a bad news which we had heard recently. I hope the hon. Minister is going to respond.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs is already on the job. I shall again be in touch with him to find out whether there is any information. If there is any information, I will make it available to the House.

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*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that Rajasthani language should be included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

The linguists all over the world have unanimously ranked the Rajasthani language at the 16th place in the world language order considering it a very rich language. The history of the Rajasthani language dates back to 1200 years. Poet Udhyothram Suri had written a treatise in Rajasthani language named 'Kuvaleyam' in the 8th century. The world famous linguist Sir George Grierson in his

Linguistic Survey of India, Dr. L.P. Tessitori of Italy in his 'Indian Anti-query', noted Hindi critic Dr. Namvar Singh in 'Purani Rajasthani' and Prof. Kalicharan of Chicago University in 'Rajasthani Bhasha: Sanrachnatamk Vyakaran' – all have considered Rajasthani language as one of the best languages of the world.

The official work of all the princely states of Rajputana was done in the Rajasthani language before India's independence. More than 2.5 lakh books have been printed in Rajasthani and manuscripts of lakhs of treatises are housed in the libraries. According to the Czech scholar Smekal, the Rajasthani language has the biggest treasure of the folk literature in Asia. Dictionary of Rajasthani language consisting of nine volumes is one of the world's largest dictionaries. This language, rich with 73 dialects and sub-dialects also consists of equally good grammar. The number of people, including NRI Rajasthanis also, speaking Hadoti, Dhundhadi, Mewari, Marwadi, Shekhawati, Bagri, Malwi, Pahari and Bhill etc. dialects is estimated to be about 12 crore. It is a sad situation if the Government does not recognize the mother tongue of so many people in a democracy. Sir, hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, who was a Home Minister in the previous Government, is sitting here. We had also raised the demand for inclusion of Rajasthani language when Bodo, Santhali and Maithili languages were being included in the eighth schedule. He had then said that Rajasthani language will also be included in the eighth schedule in the coming time. The whole of the state and also the legislative assembly had urged upon the Central Government to include the Rajasthani language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution by passing a motion unanimously on 25 August, 2003.

I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Government through you that the crores of people of Rajasthan should be provided relief by including the Rajasthani language, which is spoken by 12 crore people of Rajasthan in the eighth schedule of the constitution without delay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo – not present.

Shri Harikewal Prasad – not present.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Communications and Information Technology to the new scheme of mobile phone connection, that is the post-paid

mobile phone connection introduced exclusively for the Government employees. This attractive scheme came into force from 2nd November, 2005 and the response has so far been encouraging. Under this Scheme, the Central and State Government employees and employees of the public sector and pensioners are eligible for connection. In Kerala, the State Government employees include those who are working in the public sector and Government aided schools. But unfortunately those who are working in the State public sector units, aided schools and private colleges were excluded from the scheme. This has created a lot of resentment among those employees.

I would like to request the hon. Minister for Communications to kindly peruse the position and the scheme already announced may be extended for the employees working under the State PSUs, aided schools and colleges.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajen Gohain – not present.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the Institute of Virology and Infection Diseases, an autonomous organisation located at Alappuzha District in Kerala, is the only one of its kind in the entire South India. The Institute was found with the objective of detection of communicable diseases and also to make early warning system of mosquito-born diseases.

There is found to be an alarming increase in the cases of Dengu fever, Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis Leptospirosis etc., in the State of Kerala and also in the neighbouring States. The peculiar geographical positions with long-stretch of sea coasts and the climatic conditions make the people living in this part of the country more vulnerable to such communicable diseases.

The services of this Institute are not confined to Kerala State alone as their services are extended to other institutions and to the people in the neighbouring States also. But due to financial constraints, the much required enhancement of facilities and upgradation of scientific instruments and equipment in this field is not being undertaken from time to time.

In this situation, I would request the Government to provide adequate funds for equipping the Institute with modern instruments and to further develop infrastructure

considering its high importance and also to develop this institute into a training Institute. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Pradhan – not present.

Dr. Rajesh Mishra – not present.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards non-inclusion of the millennium city Cuttack of Orissa in the National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM). That is a good project which the Central Government has taken up by combining a number of other projects of the Ministry of Urban Development.

The peculiar case is, with rapid industrialisation taking place in the State of Orissa, more than Re. 1,50,000 crore of investment is expected to take place over five years' time in sectors such as steel, aluminium, power, information technology, tourism and even petroleum etc. So, urban areas need heavy investment for upgradation of urban infrastructure. Cuttack is the oldest city of the State with a population of around 8 lakh people and a floating population of around 30,000 to 40,000 people everyday. But exclusion of Cuttack from the list of cities that are included in the NURM has evoked strong reactions. Even today, the Municipal Corporation of Cuttack has passed a Resolution and on 3rd December, that is on, Saturday, a Bandh is going to be held there.

So, that is the urgency for which I am drawing the attention of the Union Government. It has evoked strong reactions because the Government has failed to recognise the importance of the city of Cuttack. Inclusion of Bhubaneswar and the Temple City of Puri is worthy of appreciation, no doubt. But I would like to draw the attention of the House that Cuttack being the old Capital of Orissa is the second largest city next to Bhubaneswar. It should be included in the NURM. In the first phase around 60 cities of the country are being included in this project, and the Cabinet including the Planning Commission, and a whole lot of people have gone into that. But the method of selection of the cities is bereft of any particular criterion. That is the main problem.

Sir, for instance, Tirupati has not been included in this project, which is drawing more than 50,000 people everyday. But other cities of the Andhra Pradesh have been included. As regards Orissa, they have included only

two cities. But there are States from which more than four cities have been included in this project. So, some criteria have to be fixed.

Therefore, I would again request the Government of India to please reconsider the decision and also include Cuttack in the NURM. Of course, Cuttack should be included. The State Government of Orissa has already requested the Centre in this regard. Keeping in view the geographical area, the population criteria, the historical background, a necessity that Cuttack should be included in the NURM.

Sir, pressure is mounting on every urban centre, and most of the urban bodies are not in a position to meet the challenges of over population. Cuttack is beset with a number of problems like drainage, sanitation, roads, and environment. It is the right path to improve infrastructure. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to please include Cuttack in the NURM.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Alok Kumar Mehta – Not present.

Shri Lalmani Prasad, I would like to mention that Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has also raised the similar matter, which you want to raise. You can associate with him.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Bastl): Sir, I want to put forth my point in that connection itself. Destitute, poor, helpless people and those having lost hope in the life visit the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the treatment from all the corners of the country. All kinds of tests were conducted there free of cost. I came to know through newspapers yesterday that fees for tests have been increased. This has caused disappointment among the poor. I, therefore, urge the Government to withdraw the increased fees. This will be in the interest of the poor.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 1, 2005/Agrahayana 10, 1927 (Saka).

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