

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

Fourteenth Series, Vol. V, Third Session, 2004/1926 (Saka)

Wednesday, December 01, 2004/Agrahayana 10, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA	v-xxi
OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA	xxiii
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	xv-xvii
NATIONAL ANTHEM – Played	1
MEMBERS SWORN	1
OBITUARY REFERENCES	1-8
INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER	9-10
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 1-3	13-31
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	31-333
*Starred Question Nos. 4-20	31-68
Unstarred Question Nos. 1-230	69-333
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	333-338
RE : RISING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE COUNTRY	338-344, 353-354
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of collapse of the Global Trust Bank and steps taken by the Govt. in regard thereto	358-375
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	358, 360-361
Shri P. Chidambaram	358-360, 371-375
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	361-367
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	367-368
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	368-369
Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri	369-371

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
BILLS—INTRODUCED	
(i) CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL	376
(ii) BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL	376-378
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance	
Shri P. Chidambaram	379
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to Delegate Powers to Members of Parliament to review implementation of Central Government sponsored projects in their constituencies	
Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu	379
(ii) Need to take initiatives to open a dialogue with insurgent groups in the North Eastern States of Manipur, Assam and Nagaland	
Dr. Thokchom Meinya	379-380
(iii) Need to introduce direct flights from Riyadh and Dammam to Hyderabad	
Shri K. S. Rao	380
(iv) Need to set up a Head Post Office at Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Pankaj Choudhary	380
(v) Need to provide air-link to Ajmer city in Rajasthan	
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	380-381
(vi) Need to release the Central share of funds for various developmental programmes in Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi	381
(vii) Need to enact a Central legislation for enabling regulation of admissions to unaided private professional institutes	
Shri P. Rajendran	381-382
(viii) Need to construct a bridge on river Yamuna at Mahewa Ghat in Chail Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Shailendra Kumar	382
(ix) Need to bring Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited, Patna under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways	
Shri Vijoy Krishna	382-383

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(x) Need to set up a Mango Research Centre in Shahabad fruit belt, Uttar Pradesh Shri Ilyas Azmi	383
(xi) Need to provide adequate relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu Shri A.K.S. Vijayan	383
(xii) Need to expedite the construction of the second rail bridge over river Mahanadi in Orissa Shri B. Mahtab	383-384
(xiii) Need to declare Punjabi as an official language of the Union Territory of Chandigarh Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	384-385
CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE LAWS (REPEAL) BILL	
Motion to Consider	
Shri P. Chidambaram	385, 386-387
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	385-386
Shri Mohan Singh	386
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	387
Motion to Pass	387
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Problems being faced by the Jute Industry	387-408
Shri Santasri Chatterjee	387-389
Shri Shailendra Kumar	389-390
Shri Anwar Hussain	390-391
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	391-393
Shri Rupchand Pal	393-395
Shri Alok Kumar Mehta	395-397
Shri Brahmanand Panda	397-398
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	398-400

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Narayan Chandra Borkataky	400-401
Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela	401-408
ANNEXURE - I	409-414
Member – wise Index to Starred List of Questions	
Member – wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	
ANNEXURE - II	415-416
Ministry – wise Index to Starred List of Questions	
Ministry – wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS
OF FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

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Reddy, Shri Madhusudan (Adilabad)
Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana (Visakhapatnam)
Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal (Miryalguda)
Reddy, Shri S. P. Y. (Nandyal)
Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar (Nalgonda)
Reddy, Shri Y. S. Vivekanand (Cuddapah)
Regupathy, Shri S. (Pudukottai)
Renge Patil, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao (Prabhani)
Rijju, Shri Khiren (Arunachal West)
Riyan, Shri Baju Ban (Tripura East)

S

Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant (Ranchi)
Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar (Berhampur - Orissa)

Sahu, Shri Tarachand (Durg)
Sai Prathap, Shri A. (Rajampet)
Sai, Shri Nand Kumar (Sarguja)
Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo (Raigarh)
Sajjan Kumar, Shri (Outer Delhi)
Salim, Md. (Calcutta - North East)
Sangliana, Dr. H. T. (Bangalore North)
Sangma, Shri P. A. (Tura)
Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh (Sonepat)
Sar, Shri Nikhilananda (Burdwan)
Saradgi, Sri Iqbal Ahmed (Gulberga)
Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar (Lakhimpur)
Saroj, Shri D. P. (Lalganj)
Saroj, Shri Tufani (Saidpur)
Satheedevi, Shrimati P. (Badagara)
Satpathy, Shri Tathagata (Dhenkanal)
Satyanarayana, Shri Sarvey (Siddipet)
Sayeda, Shrimati Rubab (Bahraich)
Scindia, Shri Jyotiraditya M. (Guna)
Seal, Shri Sudhangshu (Calcutta-North West)
Seeramesh, Shrimati Tejaswini (Kanakpura)
Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika (Tiruchendur)
Sen, Shrimati Minati (Jalpaiguri)
Senthil, Dr. R. (Dharmapuri)
Seth, Shri Lakshman (Tamluk)
Sethi, Shri Arjun (Bhadrak)
Shah, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra (Tehri Garhwal)
Shahabuddin, Dr. Md. (Siwan)
Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid (Baramulla)
Shahid, Mohd. (Meerut)
Shailendra Kumar, Shri (Chail)
Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh (Etawah)
Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram (Shimla)
Sharma, Dr. Arvind (Kamal)

Sharma, Shri Madan Lal (Jammu)
Shervani, Shri Saleem (Badaun)
Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil (Khed)
Shivanna, Shri M. (Chamrajanagar)
Shiwankar, Prof. Mahadeorao (Chimur)
Shukla, Shrimati Karuna (Janjgir)
Sibal, Shri Kapil (Chandni Chowk)
Siddeswara, Shri G. M. (Davangere)
Sidhu, Shri Navjot Singh (Amritsar)
Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee (Krishnagar)
Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari (Bolangir)
Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra (Aligarh)
Singh, Chaudhary Lal (Udhampur)
Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad (Motihari)
Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad (Vaishali)
Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan (Bhind)
Singh, Kunwar Manvendra (Mathura)
Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj (Aonla)
Singh, Rao Inderjit (Mahendragarh)
Singh, Shri Ajit (Baghpat)
Singh, Shri Ajit Kumar (Bikramganj)
Singh, Shri Akshaya Pratap (Pratapgarh)
Singh, Shri Brijbhushan Sharan (Balrampur)
Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan (Farrukhabad)
Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap (Sidhi)
Singh, Shri Chandrabhan (Damoh)
Singh, Shri Dushyant (Jhalawar)
Singh, Shri Ganesh (Satna)
Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad (Jahanabad)
Singh, Shri Kalyan (Bulandshahar)
Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan (Gonda)
Singh, Shri Lakshman (Rajgarh)
Singh, Shri Manvendra (Barmer)
Singh, Shri Mohan (Deoria)

Singh, Shri Prabhunath (Maharajganj, Bihar)
Singh, Shri Rakesh (Jabalpur)
Singh, Shri Ramsevak (Gwalior)
Singh, Shri Rewati Raman (Allahabad)
Singh, Shri Sartaj (Hoshangabad)
Singh, Shri Sita Ram (Sheohar)
Singh, Shri Sugrib (Phulbani)
Singh, Shri Suraj (Balua, Bihar)
Singh, Shri Uday (Purnea)
Singh, Shri Vijayendra Pal (Bhilwara)
Singh, Shri Vishvendra (Bharatpur)
Singh, Shrimati Kanti (Arrah)
Singh, Shrimati Pratibha (Mandi)
Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran (Sivakasi)
Solanki, Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsingh (Anand)
Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasingh (Godhara)
Sonowal, Shri Sarbananda (Dibrugarh)
Soren, Shri Shibu (Dumka)
Srikantappa, Shri D. C. (Chikmagalur)
Subba, Shri M. K. (Tezpur)
Subbarayan, Shri K. (Coimbatore)
Sugavanam, Shri E. G. (Krishnagiri)
Sujatha, Shrimati C. S. (Mavelikara)
Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan (Karimganj)
Suman, Shri Ramji Lal (Firozabad)
Sumbri, Shri Begun (Singhbhum)
Surendran, Shri Chengara (Adoor)
Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H. (Bidar)
Swain, Shri Harihar (Aska)
Swain, Shri Kharabela (Balasore)

T

Taslimuddin, Shri (Kishanganj)
Thakkar, Smt. Jayaben B. (Vadodara)
Thangkabalu, Shri K. V. (Salern)

Thomas, Shri P. C. (Muvattupuzha)
Thummar, Shri V. K. (Amreli)
Thupstan, Shri Chhewang (Ladakh)
Tirath, Shrimati Krishna (Karol Bagh)
Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran (Barrackpore)
Tripathi, Shri Chandra Mani (Rewa)
Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore (Puri)
Tytler, Shri Jagdish (Delhi Sadar)

V

Vaghela, Shri Shankarsinh (Kapadvanj)
Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari (Lucknow)
Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry (Tenali)
Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas (Dhandhuka)
Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D. (Bharuch)
Veerendra Kumar, Shri M. P. (Calicut)
Velu, Shri R. (Arakkonam)
Venkatapathy, Shri K. (Cuddalore)
Venkatswamy, Shri G. (Peddapalli)
Venugopal, Shri D. (Tiruppattur)
Verma, Shri Beni Prasad (Kaisarganj)
Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh (Jalaun)
Verma, Shri Rajesh (Sitapur)
Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash (Kheri)
Verma, Shrimati Usha (Hardoi)
Vijayan Shri A. K. S. (Nagapattinam)
Vijayashankar, Shri C. H. (Mysore)
Vinod Kumar, Shri B. (Hanamkonda)
Virendra Kumar, Shri (Sagar)
Virupakshappa, Shri K. (Koppal)
Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar (Rajahmundry)

W

Waghmare, Shri Suresh (Wardha)

Y

- Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh (Alwar)
Yadav, Kunwar Devendra Singh (Etah)
Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal (Sambhal)
Yadav, Shri Akhilesh (Kannauj)
Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu (Gopalganj)
Yadav, Shri Baleshwar (Padrauna)
Yadav, Shri Bhal Chandra (Khalilabad)
Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh (Jhansi)
Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)
Yadav, Shri Giridhari (Banka)
Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan (Monghyr)
Yadav, Shri Kailash Nath Singh (Chandouli)
Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar (Secundarabad)
Yadav, Shri Mitrasen (Faizabad)
Yadav, Shri Paras Nath (Jaunpur)
Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal (Patna)
Yadav, Shri Ramakant (Azamgarh)
Yadav, Shri Sita Ram (Sitamarhi)
Yadav, Shri Umakant (Machhlishahar)
Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud (Nizamabad)
Yerrannaidu, Shri Kinjarapu (Srikakulam)

Z

- Zahedi, Shri Mahboob (Katwa)
Zawma, Shri Vanlal (Mizoram)

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER
Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER
Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Shri Ajay Maken

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Shri G. C. Malhotra

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CABINET MINISTERS

Dr. Manmohan Singh	The Prime Minister and also in-charge of the Ministries/ Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any Minister viz. (i) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; (ii) Ministry of Planning; (iii) Department of Atomic Energy; and (iv) Department of Space
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	The Minister of Defence
Shri Arjun Singh	The Minister of Human Resource Development
Shri Sharad Pawar	The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs; Food and Public Distribution
Shri Lalu Prasad	The Minister of Railways
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	The Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel
Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Urban Development
Shri S. Jaipal Reddy	The Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Culture
Shri Sish Ram Ola	The Minister of Mines
Shri P. Chidambaram	The Minister of Finance
Shri Mahavir Prasad	The Minister of Small Scale Industries and Minister of Agro and Rural Industries
Shri P.R. Kyndiah	The Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Shri T.R. Baalu	The Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
Shri Shankersinh Vaghela	The Minister of Textiles
Shri K. Natwar Singh	The Minister of External Affairs
Shri Kamal Nath	The Minister of Commerce and Industry
Shri H.R. Bhardwaj	The Minister of Law and Justice
Shri P.M. Sayeed	The Minister of Power
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	The Minister of Rural Development

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	The Minister of Water Resources
Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Panchayati Raj
Shri Sunil Dutt	The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
Shrimati Meira Kumar	The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao	The Minister of Labour and Employment
Shri Shibu Soren	The Minister of Coal
Shri A. Raja	The Minister of Environment and Forests
Shri Dayanidhi Maran	The Minister of Communications and Information Technology
Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss	The Minister of Health and Family Welfare

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Shri Jagdish Tytler	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
Shri Oscar Fernandes	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Tourism
Shri Subodh Kant Sahay	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Shri Kapil Sibal	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State of the Department of Ocean Development
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
Kumari Selja	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
Shri Praful Patel	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Civil Aviation
Shri Prem Chand Gupta	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Company Affairs

MINISTERS OF STATE

Shri E. Ahamed	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Suresh Pachauri	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Bijoy Handique	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Dr. Dasari Narayan Rao	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
Dr. Shakeel Ahmad	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Rao Inderjit Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Naranbhai Rathwa	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri K. H. Muniyappa	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
Shri M.V. Rajasekharan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning
Shri Kantilal Bhuria	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri Prithviraj Chavan	The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office
Shri Taslimuddin	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Shrimati Suryakanta Patil	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri M.A.A. Fatmi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Shri A. Narendra	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri R. Velu	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shri S. Regupathy	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri K. Venkatapathy	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jegadeesan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Shrimati Kanti Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Shri Namu Narain Meena	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources
Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. V, First day of the Third Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 1, 2004/Agrahayana 10, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(The National Anthem was played.)

11.02 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Secretary-General may now call the names of the Members elected in the recent bye-elections and the nominated Members to take oath or make affirmation.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Narsing Hulla Suryawanshi (Bidar)

Shri Francis Fanthome (Nominated)

Ms. Ingrid Mcleod (Nominated)

11.05 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of His Excellency Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President, United Arab Emirates and His Excellency Yasir Arafat, President, Palestinian National Authority and Chairman, Palestine Liberation Organisation and nine of our former colleagues, namely, Shri N. Venkata Ratnam, Shri Meetha Lal Meena, Shri Krishnanand Rai, Shri Subodh Chandra Hansda, Shri B.P. Maurya, Shri Kishen Pattayak, Shri Nilamani Routary, Shri Shyamnandan Mishra and Shri V.V. Raghavan.

In the passing away of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the United Arab Emirates has lost its father figure, the Arab world a visionary and an elder statesman, and India, a highly cherished friend.

The sagacity and far-reaching outlook of Sheikh Zayed has shaped the development of United Arab Emirates as a stable prosperous and modern nation State. His admirable combination of tradition with modernism, his deep interest in

education of the people of United Arab Emirates, his efforts in environmental preservation and greening of the desert and his vehement stand against extremism have left a lasting impact. India has maintained closed and friendly relations with the United Arab Emirates under the Presidentship of Sheikh Zayed. We hope that special bonds between India and the United Arab Emirates will continue to grow in the coming years.

This House joins the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, the leadership and the people of United Arab Emirates in mourning the irreplaceable loss in the death of Sheikh Zayed.

President Yasir Arafat, who passed away on Thursday, the 11th November, 2004 was a towering leader in the Arab world, and was recognized globally as an enduring symbol of Palestinian nationhood. His singular leadership and life-long sacrifice and struggle for the realization of the hopes and aspirations of his people are legendary. The path to a peaceful resolution through the initiation of the Middle East Peace Process and the continued focus of the international community on West Asia and Palestine was the result of President Arafat's indomitable courage, fortitude and single-minded and untiring efforts, despite formidable hurdles and personal suffering. He was deservedly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He remains an inspiration for the Palestinian cause, the new leadership of Palestine, the Palestinian people and for all peace-loving people worldwide.

To the people of India and our leaders, President Arafat was a sincere friend and a highly respected statesman. Our association with the Palestinian cause goes back to our own freedom struggle. India will continue to support the Palestinian people and the leaders of the Palestinian National Authority in their struggle to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of President Arafat for an independent homeland. The House deeply mourns the death of President Arafat.

The House also wishes to convey its sincere condolences to Mrs. Arafat, the leaders of the Palestinian National Authority and the people of Palestine.

Shri N. Venkata Ratnam was a Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing the Tenali Parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Venkata Ratnam was a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1978 and 1983 to 1984. He was also the Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Public Undertakings Committee, from 1983 to 1984. In 1984, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Venkata Ratnam was a Member of the Committee of Privileges and Committee on Estimates during 1985 and 1986. He was also a Member of

the Indian Parliamentary Delegation which visited Zimbabwe in January, 1988.

An advocate by profession, Shri Venkata Ratnam was President of the Panchayat Court, Guntur and was Secretary, Guntur Bar Association.

A well-known social worker, he worked relentlessly for the uplift of the backward classes.

He also evinced interest in fine arts.

Shri N. Venkata Ratnam passed away on 6th August, 2004 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 77.

Shri Meetha Lal Meena was a Member of the Fourth and Sixth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1970 and 1977 to 1979 representing the Sawai Madhopur parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan.

A devoted parliamentarian, Shri Meena served as a Member of the Committee on the Welfare of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 1968 to 1970 and Committee of Privileges during the Sixth Lok Sabha. He was Member, National Railway Consumer Advisory Committee from 1967 to 1969; Backward Classes Reforms Commission, Government of India from 1968 to 1970; and Central Sales Tax Inquiry Commission during 1970.

Shri Meena was also a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977. He was the Chairman, Library Committee, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly during 1976.

An agriculturist and industrialist by profession, Shri Meena was also a social activist, who worked relentlessly for the welfare of the rural population and for social reforms amongst the backward communities.

He was the Vice-Chairman of the Vivekananda Memorial Committee, Sawai Madhopur during 1969-70; and Treasurer, All-India, Meena Jati Sangh during 1968.

Shri Meetha Lal Meena passed away on 11th August, 2004 at Karoli, Rajasthan at the age of 66.

Shri Krishnanand Rai was a Member of the Provisional Parliament from 26th January, 1950 to 17th April, 1952 representing the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Rai was also elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms in the years 1962, 1967 and 1969. He also served as the Minister for Health and Co-operatives in the State Government.

A legal practitioner by profession, Shri Rai was a member of the Executive Committee of the "Hindi Sahitya Sammelan."

Shri Rai was an eminent social worker. He also took keen interest in dramatics and debates. He served as the General Secretary, "People's Club". He was the convenor of the "Nagri Prachar Dramatic Association"; and the organiser of the "Debating Club, Ghazipur".

A person with a literary bent of mind, Shri Rai authored "History of Ghazipur" and "India and Democracy". He was also the Editor of a local Hindi weekly, "Lok Sewak".

Shri Krishnanand Rai passed away on 12th September, 2004 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 83, after a brief illness.

Shri Subodh Chandra Handsa was a Member of the First, Second, Third and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1954 to 1967 and 1971 to 1977. He was a Member of the First and Third Lok Sabhas from the Jhargram Parliamentary Constituency. He was a Member of Second and Fifth Lok Sabhas from the Midnapore Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Handsa was a Member of the Estimates Committee from 1963 to 1964 and the Committee on Public Undertakings during 1965.

An able administrator, Shri Handsa also served as the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Mines from 1973 to 1974.

An agriculturist and eminent social activist, Shri Handsa actively engaged himself in the welfare of tribals. He was also associated with a number of welfare societies. He was the Chairman, State Scheduled Tribes Committee, West Bengal in 1966 and President, Eastern Railway Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees' Welfare Association. He served as a member of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Government of India in 1960. He was also a member of the Central Tribes Advisory Council from 1958 to 1960 and of the Scheduled Tribes Advisory Council, West Bengal, for a number of years.

Shri Handsa served with distinction as the President, Jhargram Ashoka Vidyapeeth and Ranarani High School. He was also a member of the Governing Body of the Kagpagari College and Secretary of the Nikhil Bharat Banwasi Panchayat, Jhargram.

A sports enthusiast, Shri Handsa also served as Secretary, District Adibasi Sports Association from 1949 to 1952 and thereafter, as its Vice-President from 1953 to 1954.

Shri Subodh Chandra Handsa passed away on 26th September, 2004 at Jhargram in Midnapore, West Bengal at the age of 77, after a brief illness.

Shri B.P. Maurya was a member of the Third and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1967 and 1971 to 1977 representing the Aligarh and Hapur Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Maurya was a Member of the Committee on Public Accounts from 1966 to 1967 and the Committee of Privileges from 1973 to 1974.

Shri Maurya was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1978 to 1984, representing the State of Andhra Pradesh. He served in the Union Council of Ministers as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture from 11th January to 10th October, 1974; in the Ministry of Industry and Civil Supplies from 10th October, 1974 to 9th August, 1976; and in the Ministry of Industry from 9th August, 1976 to 24th March, 1977.

A teacher and advocate by profession, Shri Maurya was associated with the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation in various capacities from 1946 to 1957. He devoted his entire life for the uplift of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He was also associated with various social welfare organisations.

A widely travelled person, Shri Maurya represented India in several international fora. He was a member of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations during 1972-73; and Leader of the Indian Delegations to the UNIDO Conferences in Algeria and Bulgaria in 1974 and 1975. He was also a member of the Indian Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference at Havana in 1981.

Shri B.P. Maurya passed away on 27th September, 2004 at New Delhi at the age of 76, after a brief illness.

Shri Kishen Pattnayak was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1967 representing the Sambalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Pattnayak was a Member of the Committee on Government Assurances from 1966 to 1967. A devoted follower of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri Pattnayak was known as '*Chhotte Lohia*' in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. He worked relentlessly for the uplift of farmers and labourers. He was involved in many farmers' movements throughout the country, including that of the Kamataka Raitha Rajya Sangha. He effectively used the forum of Lok Sabha to seek the redressal of the problems being faced by the poor and the downtrodden sections of the society.

A well-known socialist thinker, activist and writer, Shri Pattnayak wrote extensively in Hindi, English and Oriya. He was Joint Editor of Hindi Journal '*Jana*' and he also served as a member on the Editorial Board and later as the Editor of '*Mankind*' the newspaper published by Dr. Lohia. He was also the Editor of the Oriya newspaper '*Samyak Varta Tatha Vikalp*'.

Shri Kishen Pattnayak passed away on 27th September,

2004 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa at the age of 74, after a brief illness.

Shri Nilamani Routray was a Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991, representing the Puri Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa.

Earlier, Shri Routray was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1976 to 1977. An able administrator, he served as a Union Minister in the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Environment and Forests during 1989-90.

Shri Routray was a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1948 to 1967, 1971 to 1973 and again from 1977 to 1980. He served as a Minister in the Government of Orissa and held various portfolios from 1952 to 1967. He was the Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa from 1964 to 1967 and again from 1971 to 1973. He rose to become the Chief Minister of Orissa in the year 1977 and ably held this office till 1980.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Routray actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered incarceration.

An eminent social and political worker, Shri Routray was actively associated with a number of social and political organisations. He took active part in the relief work in the cyclone and famine affected areas of North Balasore in 1944 and also participated in the relief and rehabilitation work among the riot-affected people of Kolkata in the year 1946.

A widely travelled person, Shri Routray was the leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, in 1963.

A man of letters, Shri Routray was Editor of the Oriya Daily '*Prajatantra*'. A renowned writer, he was awarded the Orissa Sahitya Academy Award in 1988.

Shri Nilamani Routray passed away on 4th October, 2004 at Cuttack, Orissa, at the age of 84.

Shri Shyamnandan Mishra was a Member of the Provisional Parliament, First, Second and Sixth Lok Sabhas from 1950 to 1962 and 1977 to 1979 representing the Darbhanga North, Jainagar and Begusarai Parliamentary Constituencies of Bihar, respectively.

A veteran parliamentarian, Shri Mishra was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from December 1962 to March 1971, representing the State of Bihar. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha from 1969 to 1971. During his tenure as Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha, he served as Chairman, Joint Committee on the Lokpal Bill, 1977.

An able administrator Shri Mishra served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the then Prime Minister of India from 1951 to 1952. Shri Mishra also served in the Union

Government as Deputy Minister of Planning from 1954 to 1962 and Minister of External Affairs with additional charge of Communications from 1979 to 1980.

A teacher by profession, Shri Mishra took active part in the freedom struggle of India was imprisoned in connection with the Quit India Movement during 1942-43. An active social and political worker, Shri Mishra was associated with various social and political organisations. He was the Editor of 'Liberator' and 'Bihar Vaibhav'.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mishra was member of various Indian Parliamentary Delegations sent abroad and he represented the country in several international events. He was a member of the Indian Delegations to the Tenth Session of the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East at Kandy in Sri Lanka in 1954; Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation at New York, in 1954; Inter-Parliamentary Council at Dublin, in 1965; Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the erstwhile USSR in 1965; and the Nineteenth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at London, in 1973.

Shri Shyamnandan Mishra passed away on 25 October, 2004 at Patna, Bihar, at the age of 84.

Shri V.V. Raghavan was a Member of the Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 1999 representing the Trichur Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

An active parliamentarian, he was also a member of the Committee on Commerce from 1996 to 1997; Committee on Railways; Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme; and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Railways during 1998-99.

Shri Raghavan was a sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Kerala from July, 2000 till his death. As Member of the Rajya Sabha also, he served on several parliamentary committees.

Earlier, he took active part in the freedom struggle of the country and underwent imprisonment.

He was a member of the Trichur Municipal Council from 1948 to 1963 and of the Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1996. An able administrator, Shri Raghavan served as the Minister of Agriculture in the Government of Kerala from 1987 to 1991.

A well known social activist, Shri Raghavan initiated several welfare schemes for the benefit of the farming community, such as introduction of the novel system of group farming in Kerala; setting up of Agricultural Development Committees under the leadership of Panchayat Presidents, for dissemination and use of the latest technology for cultivation throughout the State.

Shri Raghavan devoted his entire life to the service of the poor, downtrodden and working classes of the society.

A man of letters, Shri Raghavan had two books in Malayalam to his credit. He was awarded the 'Soviet Land Nehru Award' in 1977 and the 'Sankara Narayanan Thampi Award for Best Parliamentarian' in 1977. Shri Raghavan also attended the General Assembly of the United Nations at New York in 1996.

Shri V.V. Raghavan passed away on 27 October, 2004 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, at the age of 81, after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.23 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. In Sultanpur District of Uttar Pradesh, Mohd. Tahir, who is a member of our party, was attacked.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao) : He should be released and the people who attacked him in Uttar Pradesh, should be arrested. The Member from our party should be released...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the hon. Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You give the notice. I will allow you to speak. Sit down now. There are some rules and procedures. Let us not begin this Session in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

11.24 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other hon'ble members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to go back to your seats, otherwise, I will be forced to name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything. You are not behaving in a responsible manner.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you time. Go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

11.25 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I wish to

*Not recorded.

introduce to this House Shri Shibu Soren, Minister of Coal, who has recently been inducted into the Council of Ministers.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will name you. What do you want?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you go back to your seats and speak only when I ask you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Take down their names. I will them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. You are behaving in this way. All your leaders have committed. Go and sit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri M. Appadurai, Q. No. 1.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You go there and sit. I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will have to name you. I will name you. You will be removed from this House. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking about? You have not given any notice in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen to you, but first you all go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will suspend you today, if you do not go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will suspend all of you. You are not allowing me to speak. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you given any notice for this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I warn you Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, Shri Rajesh Verma, Shri Rajaram Pal, Shri Brajesh Pathak, Shri Ilyas Azmi, Shri Mitrasen Yadav, Mohd. Mukeem, Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav, Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, and Mohd. Shahid.

I am giving you a warning. This is the last warning. Please go back to your seats. I will listen to you. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you go back to your seats. I will listen only, if you all go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you all to go back to your seats. I would not allow this. Please go back to your seats. First you go and sit there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will suspend you. Anybody coming to the Well of the House will be suspended. I am giving you a warning. You please go there.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What has not happened earlier, will happen from today. You go and sit down. This is Parliament and you all are members of Parliament so behave like a member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Who says I will not listen? You have not given notice also. You go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

11.32 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other hon'ble members went back to their seats)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way to behave as a Member of Parliament? Please sit down. You should behave well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You are not yet the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not force me to take unpleasant action. I will not accept this position any longer. All of you have been kind enough to assure me co-operation in running the House smoothly. I have not got any notice from you. This is Question Hour. You are raising an issue about which nobody knows. Is this is way to behave in the Parliament of India?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut) : Mr. Speaker, Our member of Parliament has been sent to jail....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should feel ashamed.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You are standing again.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you take your seat or not? You are making a *tamasha* of Parliament. I will not allow this. This *tamasha* will not do.

Now, we take up the Question Hour. Shri M. Appadurai.

11.33 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Combating Aids

*1. +
SHRI M. APPADURAI :

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of HIV/AIDS patients is continuously increasing;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to appoint an expert body to determine the exact number of AIDS patients in the country;

(d) - if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of highly vulnerable States;

(f) the special measures being undertaken to control the disease in these States;

(g) whether the Government has received any report of World Bank on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention in India;

(h) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government on the basis of the said report;

(i) whether the Government proposes to establish one special Centre in each district for providing health and education to the children and people afflicted with HIV; and

(j) if so, the action plan taken/being taken to combat this disease?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise break-up of AIDS cases reported during the last three years is given at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to do an independent assessment of National AIDS Control Programme in the country and also conduct a review-cum-assessment of HIV/AIDS estimation through an independent professional consulting agency.

(e) In view of conditions of vulnerability existing in some States like the large size of population, the extent of migrant labour and weaker health infrastructure, 14 low prevalence states have been re-categorized as highly vulnerable states. List of the same is given at Annexure-II.

(f) The following special measures are being taken to control disease in these states:-

- As a part of restructuring of the programme, it is proposed to form a State Council on AIDS under the chairmanship of Chief Minister to mainstream HIV/AIDS in the programme of all departments and to ensure multi-sectoral involvement of National AIDS Control Programme. It is also proposed to form State AIDS Governing Committee under the Chairmanship of State Health Minister for implementation of HIV/AIDS control programme adopting national policies and guidelines. The State Executive Board under the Chairmanship of State Health Secretary is also proposed to guide, oversee and monitor State AIDS control, activities.
- An intensive public awareness campaign will be implemented involving all media.
- All high risk groups will be covered by targeted intervention.
- In each district of the State, the following facilities are to be established on priority, namely, free Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres, STI clinics, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres and modernized blood banks.

(g) Yes, Sir. World Bank has shared with Government a report called "HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention in India".

(h) The following actions have been taken by the Government:

- Prevention component of the programme will not be reduced while implementing Anti-retroviral Therapy through selected Government institutions;
- The overall allocations for IEC activities will be increased. An intensive communication campaign is planned for media blitz on HIV so that whole country knows about HIV/AIDS in 6 months.
- Promotion of condom use is planned to be taken up in a big way.
- Youth friendly information centres are proposed to be set up in existing PHCs in rural area and urban health centres for counseling of age group between 15-25 years.

- National Partnership on AIDs control is planned to involve various Ministries, Departments, NGOs, private agencies, corporate sector, media, legal fraternity, medical associations, etc.
- Preparation for third phase of assistance from World Bank has also been started.

(i) and (j) The Government has proposed to set up one free Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres and STD clinics in each district which will be expanded below district level in a phased manner and also for one model blood bank in each district. Currently, there are 745 Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres, 273 Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres, 645 STD clinics and 1040 blood banks are being supported by National AIDS Control Programme. States have been asked to submit proposal to establish these centres for the remaining districts where facilities are not available at present.

Annexure-I

Reported number of AIDS cases during the last three years and upto Oct., 2004

S.No.	State	Reported in 2001	Reported in 2002	Reported in 2003	Cumulative upto October 2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	6	5	33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	732	1085	4123	9549
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	47	16	50	225
5.	Bihar	63	28	9	155
6.	Chandigarh	189	223	161	991
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	1
9.	Delhi	158	109	119	925
10.	Goa	48	68	174	463
11.	Gujarat	902	1108	1124	5152
12.	Haryana	76	53	54	385
13.	Himachal Pradesh	51	29	28	199
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	2
15.	Karnataka	541	294	259	2043

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Kerala	259	385	626	1769
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	156	156	145	1260
19.	Maharashtra	2043	3818	5072	18494
20.	Manipur	307	582	1187	2866
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	8
22.	Mizoram	5	14	18	97
23.	Nagaland	131	87	84	645
24.	Orissa	47	15	1	128
25.	Pondicherry	21	140	0	302
26.	Punjab	40	59	28	292
27.	Rajasthan	98	292	289	1089
28.	Sikkim	2	2	2	8
29.	Tamil Nadu	7354	9101	7130	40214
30.	Tripura	0	5	0	5
31.	Uttar Pradesh	229	359	405	1383
32.	West Bengal	207	969	611	2397
Total		13711	19000	21704	91080

Annexure-II*List of Highly Vulnerable States*

1. Assam
2. Bihar
3. Delhi
4. Himachal Pradesh
5. Kerala
6. Madhya Pradesh
7. Punjab
8. Rajasthan
9. Uttar Pradesh
10. West Bengal
11. Chhattisgarh
12. Jharkhand
13. Orissa
14. Uttaranchal

*SHRI M. APPADURAI : Sir, according to Thiruvalluvar, like 'God' the early and prime originator and being of this Earth alphabet 'Au' is the first letter in Tamil.

I am Appadurai and the hon. Minister is Anbumani and our names also begin with the vowel sound 'Au'. On this day, that is the 'World AIDS Day', I have raised this question on AIDS. Sir, as early as in 1990 the World Health Organisation came out with a warning that Indian subcontinent is prone to HIV and AIDS cases next only to African continent. Though we were cautioned I am afraid we have not been cautious enough to take adequate steps. Now the details furnished by the Minister gives an alarming picture of this spreading menace called AIDS in India. Number of AIDS cases has been given in hon. Minister's reply and the number of HIV-positive could be more. In our country, particularly in Tamil Nadu the number of AIDS cases is more. It is more than any other State. The hon. Minister also hails from the same State. I would like to know whether added efforts would be taken to intensify our efforts on a war footing to fight this deadly menace?

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, sit down.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, we share the concerns of the hon. Member. Actually, he has been saying that the first National AIDS Control Programme has been running from 1992 and the second programme from 1999, and till date we have about 5.1 million cases in our country, second to South Africa. The Government has been taking active steps to check and to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Regarding his concern about hte States, there are six high prevalent States in our country. They are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Manipur. We are taking very active steps. Since AIDS can be only prevented, we are taking steps for prevention, for awareness, whereby we are having a global partnership whereby the Central Government, the State Governments, the NGOs, the corporates, the civil societies, and everybody is taking active interest.

*SHRI M. APPADURAI : Sir, as my second supplementary question I would like to know more about preventive measures and campaign aimed at vulnerable groups. The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that interventions like prevention of transmission of HIV from parents to children and counselling are there. But I would like to know through you what are the effective steps you are taking to curb the prevalence and spread of this virus among the most vulnerable group, the youth of the country?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the high-risk groups are the youth groups between 15 and 40. We are concentrating on the youths between 15 and 25 years, and for this, a lot of steps are being taken, including the active co-operation of the hon. Members through the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS. In fact, last month we had a Youth Parliamentary Forum where more than 4000 youths from all around the country had assembled in Delhi. They are going to be our brand ambassadors to propagate amongst the youths. The Health Ministry is doing not only this, but also we are taking a co-ordinated effort between the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry, the HRD Ministry, the Rural Development Ministry, the Labour Ministry, the Women Empowerment Ministry and the Panchayati Raj Ministry. All the Ministries have come together for a common cause. This is one issue where both the Opposition and the Ruling Party are into it to propagate and check the spread of AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : I have been reminded that today is the World AIDS Day.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This habit of

interrupting the Speaker should cease. Give up this bad habit please. I was mentioning an important issue, and you interrupted.

Today is the World AIDS Day. I have been rightly reminded. I think as Members of Parliament, we should also express our concern and see that the efforts that are being taken by the Government and various organisations succeed.

Now, Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav – Not present.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU : Sir, in the list of 14 States which are affected by AIDS, Orissa is one of them. But to my knowledge, in the district which I am representing, that is Ganjam district in Orissa, there are about 47 detected cases. The hon. Ministers has told that he has taken some steps, but nothing has been done even today in those districts. So, I request the Minister to take immediate action because day by day there is an increase in the number of AIDS patients. So, I request the Minister to take up the issue.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. As I said, we have six high prevalent States, three moderate prevalent States and the rest are the so-called low prevalent States which we have categorized as highly vulnerable States.

Sir, I have given six months' time to NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) within which period, they have to ensure that one hundred per cent of the Indian population would have heard the word called 'AIDS', about the implications and ill-effects of AIDS. We are going out and I have been getting active cooperation from everyone concerned in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we see a lot of difference in the data we receive from time to time regarding Aids.

[English]

In the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development which was headed by Shri S.B. Chavan in 1999.

[Translation]

The number of Aids infected people were stated to be 8.13 million. Thereafter at the inauguration of National Aids Control Programme. Phase - II in 2002, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission had stated the number of Aids infected people to be 3.524 million. The Secretary General of United Nations Organisations Mr. Koffi Annan had also announced that the number of Aids infected people in this country is 8.5 million.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question. You have to ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : My question is that, which is the correct figure among the different figures given by the Government and whether the Government ever conducted any survey in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member's question is, "What is the correct figure?"

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Prior to 1988, only 'known' cases were reported. There is a difference between 'known' cases and 'estimated' cases. Today, we have 'known' cases of approximately 91,000, and 'estimated' cases of about 5.1 million. The current figure, today, is 5.1 million cases, and I can read out the statistics.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to read out the statistics because you have already given the details.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : There are a number of reports that the small children are denied admission in schools in various parts of the country. I raised this issue in the last Session of the House and the hon. Minister had given the reply that the Government was going to make a comprehensive legislation. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any steps at the national level and whether the Government has given any directions to the State Governments in this regard.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : We are taking up this issue and it is going through the process of vetting in the Law Ministry. After this process, we will soon bring forward the legislation.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be done within some time limit.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As soon as possible, we will bring forward the legislation.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, the Government lays more stress on preaching sexual abstinence and faithfulness to an unwilling population rather than providing condoms within easy reach of the people. Secondly, the facilities for diagnosis are awfully inadequate in the country. There are hardly 25 community HIV/AIDS Care Centres across the country.

I have two questions. One is, is there a lack of consensus on what is the right strategy to combat HIV/AIDS

and, second is, what steps are being taken to provide condoms within easy reach of the people and to provide proper facilities for diagnosis?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the hon. Member has talked about the Government's policy, the ABC policy, which we are not pursuing any more. We are going in for one hundred per cent condom promotion. This year, we have plans to distribute 1.5 billion condoms to prevent and check the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the population. Regarding the community centres, the actual number is not 25; there are 51 centres at present and NACO has been supporting 1,020 blood banks all over the country for aiding the HIV patients.

Technology Development Board

*2. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose, aims and objectives of the Technology Development Board;

(b) the names of companies to whom financial assistance was provided by the Technology Development Board in the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of terms and conditions on which the financial assistance to each company was granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government of India has set up Technology Development Board (TDB) with adequate funds to consolidate technology development in the country by bringing together the efforts of industry and R & D institutions for achieving integrated excellence.

Technology Development Board –

(i) provide equity capital, subject to such conditions as may be determined by regulations, or any other financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies attempting commercial application of indigenous technology or adapting imported technology for wider domestic applications;

(ii) provide financial assistance to such research and development institutions engaged in developing indigenous technology or adaptation of imported technology for commercial

application, as may be recognized by the Central Government;

- (iii) perform such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Central Government.

(b) The names of companies with whom TDB signed agreements in the last three years for providing financial assistance are given below :-

S.No.	2001-02
1.	Mak Controls and Systems (Private) Limited, Coimbatore
2.	Omega Ecotech Products India Private Limited, Coimbatore
3.	Membrane Filters (India) Private Limited, Pune
4.	Transweigh (India) Limited, Mumbai
5.	Clutch Auto Limited, New Delhi
6.	Shriram Energy Systems Limited, Hyderabad
7.	Vinati Organics Limited, Mumbai
8.	Selco International Limited, Hyderabad
9.	Filtra Catalysts and Chemicals Limited, Thane
10.	Radiant Cables Private Limited, Hyderabad
11.	Gland Pharma Limited, Hyderabad
12.	Eicher Motors Limited, Pithampur
13.	Tata Motors Limited, Mumbai
S.No.	2002-03
1.	Gujarat Oleo Chem Limited, Panoli
2.	Steel Strips Wheels Limited, Dappar
3.	Vardaan Agro Tech Private Limited, Delhi
4.	Biocon India Limited, Bangalore
5.	Agrosurg Irradiators (India) Private Limited, Mumbai
6.	PicoPeta Simputers Pvt. Limited, Bangalore
7.	e-Logistics Private Limited, Chennai
8.	Innovation Communications Systems Ltd, Hyderabad
9.	Issar Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad
10.	N-Logue Communications Private Limited, Chennai

S.No.	2003-04
1.	Ugar Sugar Works Limited, Sangli
2.	Silgate Technologies Private Limited, Mumbai
3.	Coral Telecom Limited, Solan
4.	Ravindranath GE Medical Associate Private Limited, Hyderabad
5.	Sofblue India Private Limited, New Delhi
6.	Gunjan Paints Limited, Ahmedabad
7.	Shriram Energy Systems Limited, Hyderabad
8.	Ind-Swift Laboratories Limited, Chandigarh
9.	Gland Pharma Limited, Hyderabad
10.	Vinati Organics Limited, Mahad
11.	Rajratan Gustav Wolf Limited, Indore
12.	Natural Remedies Private Limited, Bangalore
13.	Biological E Limited, Hyderabad
14.	Yashraj Biotechnology Limited, Mumbai
15.	Ravindranath GE Medical Associates Private Limited, Hyderabad
16.	Powai Labs Technology Private Limited, Mumbai
17.	Vishnu Fabrics Private Limited, Srivilliputtur
18.	Karishma Software Limited, Secunderabad
19.	MIC Electronics Limited, Hyderabad
20.	Strides Acorlab Limited, Bangalore
21.	Dorven Agro-Eco-Bio Ventures Private Limited, Chennai
22.	Strand Genomics Private Limited, Bangalore

(c) The Board may provide financial assistance in the form of Loan, Equity or Grant. While the loan assistance is limited to 50% of the total project cost, equity participation is limited to 25% of the total project cost. The Board may also provide grants to R & D Institutions/Industrial Concerns.

The loan assistance provided by TDB carries 5 percent simple rate of interest per annum. The repayment of loan together with interest thereon is commenced one year after the project is completed. The loan amount and interest is recoverable in five years. The terms and conditions generally include providing collateral guarantees, hypothecation and/ or mortgage of assets, monitoring, inspection etc.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the companies which have already

received these grants are repeating the request for the same grants again.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, would you repeat the question?

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL : I want to know from the concerned Minister as to whether the companies which have received these grants are repeating the requests for the disbursement of the same grants.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : No, not to my knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER : Second supplementary.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL : Is the Ministry keeping track of the disbursements to the companies in regard to the correct utilisation of the funds ?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Yes, the Ministry is keeping very close track of the correct utilisation of the funds.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, thank you for your brevity.

[Translation]

Production in SSI Sector

*3. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to chalk out any scheme to protect small industries in the present period of liberalization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of contribution in absolute terms as well as in percentage of these industries in the total production and export in the year 2002-03, 2003-04;

(d) whether production and export from these industries have decreased;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Government is considering giving any special packages and to provide loans on lower rate of interest; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government has put in place several measures to help Small Scale Industries (SSIs) become globally competitive in the wake of liberalisation. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster development approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other information technology (IT) applications to help the SSIs face the emerging challenges of liberalization. Besides, protection to the SSIs is available in the form of raising customs duties upto the bounds levels, imposing antidumping duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports etc.

(c) The SSI production at current prices during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is estimated at Rs. 3,11,933 crore and Rs. 3,57,733 crore respectively. As per the latest data available for 2002-03, the production in the SSI sector accounted for 39.5 per cent of the country's total industrial production during 2002-03, while the exports worth Rs. 86,013 by this sector during that year accounted for 34 per cent of the national exports. For the purpose of comparison (on account of non-availability of the corresponding figures for 2003-04), the following details for 2001-02 are furnished (i) SSI production of Rs. 2,82,270 crore constituted 39.6 per cent of the total industrial production and (ii) SSI exports of Rs. 71,244 crore accounted for 34.3 per cent of the national exports.

(d) The quantum of production and exports by the SSI sector has not decreased.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The Government is in the process of formulating a major promotional package for the small scale sector. To provide loans at lower rate of interest to the SSIs, the Government has set up Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Fund of Rs. 10,000 crore under the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Under this Fund, which has become operational with effect from 1st April, 2004 loans are being made available to the SSIs at a rate of interest 2 per cent below the prevailing Prime Lending Rates (PLR) of the SIDBI. Further, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has advised all its member banks to adopt an interest rate band of 2 per cent above and below their respective PLRs for loans extended to the SSIs.

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to the challenge and danger faced by the medium and small industries in the country due to the liberalisation policy. As stated by hon'ble Minister in his reply that the Government is in the process of formulating a promotional package for small and medium industries; I would like to know from hon'ble Minister about the details of action being taken and also till when the process for providing package would continue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is one supplementary.

Yes, The Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, looking at the situation developed due to the liberalisation policy, our Government propose to take different steps to save the small and medium industries. The most important measure our Government is going to take in this context is to introduce a bill to make the National Common Minimum Programme successful in regard to small and medium industries. It will contain all specifications of how to protect these small and medium industries. The second thing is that this department does not give any package with regard to liberalisation rather our Ministry provides such assistance to individual units which could improve their competitiveness. Instead of providing a package our Ministry helps any small and medium industrial units by keeping in mind all these points set up somewhere to any state. We do not give any packages in this connection.

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wanted to know the action taken by the Government so that there should not be any danger to small and medium industries due to the liberalisation policy and that for how long this process will continue. He said, they do not give package instead, they help the individual industries. I would like to know how many small and medium industries have been provided assistance so far by them. If he has any such list, he should present it in the House.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if hon'ble member had given a notice earlier than I would have surely given the list of places in different states where help has been provided.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : Hon'ble Minister is a Senior Minister, please see, what reply, he has given

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : I will send you the details.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the answer of the hon. Minister. Why this running commentary?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this is not a matter between you two. You may give a notice for Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar - not present.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while thanking the hon. Minister for taking some measures in keeping with the declared objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in most cases, due to non-cooperation of the banks in releasing loans to the small and medium entrepreneurs, the industry is suffering quite a great deal. What steps is the hon. Minister contemplating to see the hurdles in releasing loans to these entrepreneurs are removed?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is in my knowledge that we do not get the kind of help expected from banks for small and medium industries. A committee has been set up in this regard under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor of Reserve Bank of India which includes the Secretary of our Ministry as well as the banking secretary as its members. If any such case comes, we get it investigated by the Committee. If the hon'ble Member has any such matter, he may write it to me, we will get it investigated.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, generally 21 days are allowed for giving notices for Questions. But this time only ten days were given. It is very surprising to note that such a short time was allowed for giving notices for Question.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, during the time of the previous NDA Government, the then Ministers for Small Scale Industries had written a letter to all the MPs asking them to identify five sick industries for their revival and also to recommend five more new small scale industries in their Lok Sabha Constituencies. The then Minister for Small Scale Industries wanted to extend all possible help to these industries from the Government. I would like to know whether the present Government would persist with the same policy or not. If so, what sort of help does the Government wishes to extend to these industries in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has told that then Hon. Minister had written a letters to the hon. Members. I will go through it. If it contains any such thing. I would certainly consider it.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the Government is a continuing process...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can give a notice for Half-an-Hour discussion on this issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, you should protect us. Whenever we ask questions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You give a notice for Half-an-Hour discussion and we can have an Half Hour discussion on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, crores of youth get employment in small scale industries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many scale industries have become dysfunctional between 1998 to 2004? It is the responsibility of the Government to revive those small scale industries which are either sick or on the verge of closure. I would like to know from the Government as to what scheme has been formulated by the Government to develop small scale industries? I would also like to know the reasons for the closure of small scale units during the 6 years tenure of NDA regime?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information regarding number of sick units is prepared by Reserve Bank of India. My Ministry does not have information in this regard. This information is sent to our Ministry by Reserve Bank of India. I would give the information about number of units if the hon. Member asks this in writing.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I have already said that this is an important matter. You may give a notice for Half-an-Hour discussion on this. Your points have been appreciated.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to state that hon. Minister had told that several industries are in competition already. A new industry related to Railways has been set up in my constituency but it is not being provided recognition to create competition. I would like to know as to what protection is proposed to be given to the small scale industries. Several industries in my constituencies are facing lots of problems due to this reason. One such industry is Chintapoorani industry. I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He wants a separate notice on this particular question.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : I want the hon. Member to give a notice for asking this question first, only then I would specifically deal with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have answered for you. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil. He is not here.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that there are crores of people belonging to SC, ST and OBC in the country who are engaged in traditional occupations. These small scale industries are the source of employment for them. I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any scheme to save the small scale industries in the present era of liberalisation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order Please. It is a very important subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Government has started several schemes for the small scale industries that are succumbing due to the policy of liberalisation. We have taken several steps specially for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and for minorities. The most important step that our Government have taken is the setting up of rupees ten thousand crore fund under SIDBI out of which 600 crore have been spent this year. There is a provision of providing credit at 2% less than the prevailing prime lending rate (PLR). Besides, our Ministry is also making publicity in order to create awareness about it. This way we want to provide assistance to the maximum number of industries, poor and dalits. I would urge upon Shailendraji to forward any information in this regard to me. I am ready to provide my help to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate. We have very little time. Only two minutes are left for the Question Hour to be over.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as small scale industries are concerned, they are constantly getting closed down. In Jharkhand alone, two thousand small scale industries have closed down and

five thousand industries are sick. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government is ready to provide assistance to revive closed as well as sick industries. More than one and half lakh persons have been rendered jobless in Jharkhand alone during the last four years.

MR. SPEAKER : You first ask the question. Ask what you want to know.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Through you, I would like to know whether the Minister is ready to provide assistance to the sick industries so that these industries may continue to function.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : I would consider such proposal and as far as possible, I am ready to provide assistance to such industries in Jharkhand.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister says that he would consider these proposals. However, I would like to know by when he would do so. He is the Minister in charge of small scale industries. Why doesn't he keep the list of such industries with him.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Sir, I would like to know whether there is any proposal on the part of the Government to involve the lead bank Managers to survey the small and medium industries that are sick in backward States like Orissa, Assam, Bihar and others and take action involving all the banks. Does the Ministry has any such proposal?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure he will consider this point?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD : I would take care of his views and I would consider the suggestion of including the bank managers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reorientation of Tenth Plan

*4. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its meeting held in September, 2004 has decided to reorient the ongoing Tenth Plan in accordance with the National Common Minimum Programme of the new Government;

(b) if so, whether in the meeting a number of foreign experts were also called to help and assist the Planning Commission in reorienting the ongoing 10th Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also true that the Government has received any representations objecting the move to include foreign consultants in the consultative groups of the Planning Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) A Meeting of the Planning Commission was held on 9th September 2004 to consider, *inter-alia*, the Approach to the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan (2002-2007). The Approach to Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth plan endorsed by the Planning Commission presented the issues, which the Mid Term Appraisal needs to address, and the Policy correctives and new initiatives required to be taken in critical areas in the context of the new priorities outlined in the National Common Minimum Programme.

(b) No foreign consultants were invited for the meeting of the Planning Commission

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission had announced the formation of Consultative Groups for the limited purpose of obtaining views and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of Plan programmes and policies from non-government observers in the process of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. These Groups included a large number of academics, representatives of research institutes, well know NGOs, trade unions, industry associations, and also some individuals working with the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank in India. The Planning Commission subsequently received representations/communications against the involvement of "Foreign Consultants" i.e. individuals associated with international financial institutions and also international consultancy firms in the Consultative Groups. These representations objected to the inclusion of such individuals in the Consultative Groups, but not their being consulted separately. The matter was received and it was decided to dissolve the consultative groups.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Rural Areas

*5. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

DR. COL. (RETD). DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether after the Government has converted the department of telecommunications into a Corporation, difficulties are being faced in providing telephone facilities in rural areas particularly in inaccessible areas of the hill States;

(b) whether in many such inaccessible areas where the department of telecommunications has already approved their schemes for establishing Telephone Exchanges, the officials of the Corporation are giving instructions that Telephone Exchanges should not be set up there from where retrun is supported to be meagre;

(c) if so, whether the targets fixed by the Government to provide telecommunication facilities to cent percent villages by the end of the year 2004 will be achieved; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Since its formation on 1.10.2000, by way of corporation of the Department of Telecom. Service and the Department of Telecom Operations, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been providing telephone facilities in rural areas keeping in view availability/deployment of wireless technologies and based on techno-economic considerations.

All cases where the establishment of telephone exchanges were already approved by Department of Telecommunications (DOT) have been completed. Some proposals for establishing new exchanges were not approved, after review, by BSNL during 2003-04 as they were not found conforming to the norms of techno-economic viability.

There are as on date 66,822 villages without Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the country, excluding villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. The work of provision of VPTs in these remaining villages on Satellite media or otherwise have been awarded to BSNL by the office of Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. The work is targeted to be completed within the three years i.e. by November, 2007.

BSNL has finalised tender for Satellite based VPTs as well as WLL equipment in order to cover all the villages. Advance Purchase Orders has been released by BSNL for supply of Satellite based village Public Telephone as well as for WLL equipment in order to cover most of the villages in hill states, with subsidy from USO Fund.

[English]

Indo-Myanmar Ties

*6. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Myanmar Head of regime visited India in the month of October, 2004 and had discussions on economic ties and also addressed the security concerns;

(b) if so, whether the Myanmar authorities have agreed to look into India's concern and has assured full help and assistance in meeting the situation arising in North Eastern States;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the both the Government to undertake joint action on various issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India and the Government of Myanmar reiterated their firm determination to maintain peace, stability and tranquility along their borders. The Myanmar side reiterated that it would not allow insurgent activities against India from its soil.

(d) The two governments inter-alia agreed to work together for (i) economic development of the India-Myanmar border region through cooperation in various infrastructure projects; (ii) enhance the two-way-trade to US dollars one billion by 2006; and (iii) enhance people to people ties through educational and cultural contacts.

[Translation]

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

*7. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge or synergise BSNL and MTNL operations in the near future;

(b) if so, whether the modalities have been worked out in this regard;

(c) the extent to which the merger is likely to help in improving the efficiency of the two public undertakings in providing cost effective service to the public; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of workers in both the organisations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is examining different options for restructuring of MTNL and BSNL with the objective of bringing higher synergy in their operations.

(b) The Government has appointed consultants to advice and assist in the restructuring task. In the first phase of assignment, the consultant shall submit a report on the most appropriate restructuring option to the Government.

(c) and (d) After evaluation of the options with reference to all important issues such as the likely business synergies, transaction costs, concerns of shareholders, management and employees etc., final decision would be arrived at. The restructuring of both PSUs will strengthen their competitive positioning and enhance value for stakeholders.

[English]

Illegal Routing of International Calls

*8. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has taken any measures to control illegal routing of international calls through local lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of revenue loss during the last two years due to illegal routing of international calls through local lines, year-wise, category-wise;

(d) the details of firm/company/infocom which indulged in the illegal routing during the last two years, year-wise, category-wise;

(e) whether the Government has charged any firm, company and infocom in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Instructions have been issued by BSNL to monitor illegal routing of international telecom traffic at various points in the network. Instructions issued from time-to-time deal with password and routing management in exchanges, monitoring of traffic at the point of interconnection (POI) with private operators, monitoring and transmission of calling line identification (CLI) in the network and POIs etc. In the case of illegal calls delivered at the POI with other private telecom operators, interconnect agreement have deterrent provisions like penal charging and disconnection of POIs.

(c) The year-wise details of notional revenue loss as calculated from the available call data records (CDRs) during the last two years due to illegal routing of international calls through local lines based on the cases detected so far is as given below. In some of the cases, the amount of notional revenue loss is yet to be ascertained based on CDRs availability and processing.

2002-2003	11.43 Crores
2003-2004	10.83 Crores

(d) to (f) The details of firm/company/infocom detected, which indulged in the illegal routing during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004 - till date is enclosed as statements-I, II and III. The details of other service providers charged so far in this regard is enclosed as statement-IV.

Statement-I

Details of firm/company/infocom indulged in the illegal routing during the year 2002-03

Sl. No.	Name of firm/ Company/infocom	International Connectivity Misused	Date of Raid
1	2	3	4
1.	Capital Online Pvt. Ltd. F-56 and 61, Mahesh Marg, C Scheme, Jaipur	INTERNET	01/07/02
2.	M/s. Floatel Travels and Communications, Pvt. Ltd., Saltlake City, Kolkata	INTERNET	08/04/02
3.	M/s 2/3 Garcha Road, Kolkata	VSAT	28/08/02

1	2	3	4
4.	M/s. Cyber Network, 2/2C Ballygunge Place (E) 1st Floor, Kolkata 19	VSAT	09/11/02
5.	Mr. Majid, 99/4 C, Karaya Road, Kolkata - 19	VSAT	09/11/02
6.	M/s. E-Commerce, 510, Commerce house Cuning Ham Road, (M/s. Kroubt Export Pvt. Ltd.), Bangalore.	VSAT	04/07/02
7.	M/s. HTM, 9th Hayes Road, Cross Richmond Town, Bangalore	VSAT	30/11/02
8.	M/s Spider Net Communications, 2nd Floor, Mamta Building, Shastri Bagh, near LMP display Centre, Sayogi Ganj, Vadodra	INTERNET	04/06/02
9.	M/s. Shardha Enterprises Office at 409, Anana Milan Complex, Jear Jain Deresa, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad	INTERNET	17/07/02
10.	M/s. Shah Nalin S, 114, Anand Milan Complex, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.	INTERNET	17/07/02
11.	M/s Shri Patel Tushar Kantilal at shop No. 687, Upper Level, Ratmamani Complex, Jodhpur X Rasta, Ahmedabad	INTERNET	17/07/02
12.	Sector 4, Shri Tarun Moham, M/s. North Western Mktg. Enterprises, Vaishali, Gaziabad, UP (Mini school Bldg.)	VSAT	16/05/02
13.	M/s Mendpara Infotech Pvt. Ltd, 905, Adarsh Nagar, Andheri (W), Mumbai	INTERNET	03/05/02
14.	M/s. U.K. Impex, 210, 2nd Floor, Millennium Plaza, Saki Naka, Andheri, Mumbai	INTERNET	18/06/02
15.	M/s. World Tek Services, D 125, Ansa Industrial Estate, Saki Vihar Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai 72	INTERNET	10/07/02
16.	M/s. Compusoft, 5, Chunawala Estate, MIDC, Marol, Mumbai	INTERNET	28/08/02
17.	M/s. M B S Software Solutions, A-245, 1st Floor Vashi Plaza, Sector 17, Vaishi, Navi Mumbai	INTERNET	08/10/02
18.	Shri A Behram & Wasim Patel, Flat 701-B, Golden Valley Co-Op Hsg. Meera Road (E), Thane	VSAT	18/10/02
19.	1101, 11th Floor, 27 NRI Complex, Seawood, Navi Mumbai	INTERNET	30/11/02
20.	M/s. Access Network Private Limited, Novelty Plaza, Commercial Complex, Ferozpur Road, Ludhiana	VSAT	18/06/02
21.	M/s. Capital Communications, SCO-266, Sector 32, Chandigarh. (DID EPABX lines provided to M/s. COSCO Communications)	ISDN	19/06/04
22.	M/s. Global System & Solution Pvt. Ltd. New No. 43, Josier Street, Nungambakkam, Chennai	INTERNET	09/05/02
23.	L.K. Balakrishnana & others, 2nd Flr. A Block, Shri Mugudan/Shri Gopal Pillai, 2nd Floor, Mallis Building, 262 Anna Salai, Chennai -600 002	VSAT	17/10/02
24.	Shri Gopal Pillai. Thousands Lights Area, Chennai	VSAT	17/10/02
25.	Shri Gopal Pillai/Mr. Hero/ Mr. Venkat, UNINET, 46/13, 3rd Floor, Girl Road, T. Nagar, Chennai	VSAT	18/10/02
26.	Shri Gopal Pillai/Ms. Usha Raghavan, 72, Halls Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010	ISDN	21/10/02

1	2	3	4
27.	Shri Gopal Pillai, Cauvery Complex, Nungambakkam, Chennai	ISDN	22/10/02
28.	Shri Gopal Pillai, No. 22, C V Koli Street, Valasaravakkam, Chennai	ISDN	22/10/02
29.	Shri Gopal Pillai, JRG Exports, Annai Flats, Padikuppam Road, Thirumangalam, Chennai	ISDN	22/10/02
30.	Shri Gopal Pillai, 345, 9th Floor, Fountain Plaza, Egmore, Chennai 600 008	ISDN	22/10/02
31.	M/s. Maruti Telecom, Basement Shop No. 17, Gokul Arcade No. 2, Sardar Patel Road, Chennai & M/s. Trident Netcom Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Shop no. 4, 2nd Floor, Chennai.	INTERNET	18/11/02
32.	S.K. Sharma Business & Others, 10, Siri Fort Road, New Delhi & 6, Aravali Apartments, Alaknanda, Kalkaji, New Delhi	INTERNET	08/05/02
33.	B.S. Wadhwa - I, C-4/3, Rohini Sector 11, New Delhi	ISDN	27/05/02
34.	B.S. Wadhwa - II, A-104 3rd floor Main Bazar, Madhu Vihar, New Delhi	ISDN	27/05/02
35.	M/s Net Connect India Ltd. S D Chambers -II, BCP, New Delhi	INTERNET	30/07/02
36.	M/s. Hercules Networks Inc. A-30, Kailash Colony, New Delhi	VSAT	02/08/02
37.	M/s. World Callnet/Cleartel, F-67, Green Park, New Delhi	ISDN	12/09/02
38.	M/s Bala Web Service / A Shiva Kumar, P-77, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi	ISDN	12/09/02
39.	M/s. M/L India Software Solutions & M/s. Balaji International Traders/ 3S, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi	INTERNET	01/10/02
40.	M/s. Gagan Green Forest, E-12, Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi	INTERNET	14/10/02
41.	Mr. Anand Kaushik, C-124, East of Kailash, New Delhi	ISDN	11/12/02
42.	M/s. V2 Technologies and M/s. Innovative Cyber Solutions 27/30, Laxmi Ratan Industrial Complex NIT Faridabad, Haryana	ISDN	02/02/03
43.	Gala No. 2, 1st Floor, Veer Sawarkar Nagar, Near Shiv Prabha CHS, Asalfa Village, Mumbai-400 072	VSAT	10/01/03
44.	M/s. N.B. International Trading, CA-106 D, DDA Flats, Hari Nagar, New Delhi	VSAT	27/02/03
45.	M/s Indosoft, QP-58, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi	INTERNET	27/02/03
46.	M/s. Primus Network, 320 GF, Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi	INTERNET	02/02/03

Statement-II

Details of firm/company/Infocom indulged in the illegal routing during the year 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of firm/Company/infocom	International Connectivity Misused	Date of Raid
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Parikh - M/s Primus Telecom. India Ltd.	INTERNET	18/07/03
2.	39 B Ballygaunge Terrace, Kolkatta	INTERNET LEASED LINE (ILL)	01/08/03

1	2	3	4
3.	M/s. RNB Digitronics Pvt. Ltd. Park Street, Kolkata, M/s. S.R. Incorporated (India) Ltd. Park Street, Kolkata & M/s. Olympus Books Pvt. Ltd. Bakul Bagan Row, Kolkatta	ILL	12/09/03
4.	M/s. Radix Inegrated Systems, Rustumbagh Road, Bangalore	ILL	25/09/03
5.	M/s Tharang, No. - 41, 59th Cross, Rajaji Nagar, 5th Block, Bangalore	ILL	14/10/03
6.	H.No. 29, Vishwara Puram, NH-4, Nelamangala, Bangalore	IPLC	02/12/03
7.	M/s. Global Telemarketing Services, No. 139/3, Oxford Towers, 415, Airport Road, Kodehalli, Bangalore-8	INTERNET	09/07/03
8.	M/s. Jade Communications, No. 173/5, Lakshmi Chambers, 8th F Main, 3rd Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore	INTERNET	18/10/03
9.	K-Block, Ansal Fortune Arcade, Sector-18, Noida, U.P.	VSAT	02/09/03
10.	M/s. Manas Communications, 12/56/5, Sui Katra, Agra	VSAT	17/12/03
11.	Room No. 19, Second Floor, Transval Terrace, Falkland Lane, Grant Road, Mumbai	INTERNET	29/04/03
12.	M/s. Ciappi Telecommunications (I) Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 6, Precious Industries, MIDC Cross Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai	Fake Prepaid Card/INTERNET	07/05/03
13.	M/s. Pioneer infovision Technologies Pvt. Ltd., 302, Rizir Mansion, L.J. Road, Mahim, Mumbai	INTERNET	22/05/03
14.	M/s. IBS Computer Academy, Laxmi Terrace, Plot No. 73, Ranade Road, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400 028	INTERNET	17/04/03
15.	Rakesh Kumar Sharma, SLF-18, Sector 9D, Chandigarh	INTERNET	14/06/03
16.	M/s. Sure Enterprises, SCO, No. 2419, IInd Floor, Sector 22 C, Chandigarh	IPLC	25/11/03
17.	M/s. GEE VEE Technologies, OLD, No. 9/1. NEW No. 12/1, 18th Avenue, 80th Street, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-83	INTERNET	21/05/03
18.	Mr. Rajasekar of M/s. Touchtone Telemarketing and Internet Services, Sowcarpet, Chennai-79	ILL	05/09/03
19.	M/s. Infosoft Communications, D-1035, New Friends Colony, New Delhi	INTERNET	07/04/03
20.	Premises of Dr. H.K. Srivastava, Owner of 23 DELs, D-3/3522, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	INTERNET	11/06/03
21.	House no. 33/42, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi	VSAT	02/09/03
22.	M/s. DataSoft Solution, 705, Green Wood Building, Hiranandani Complex, Thane, Mumbai Obtained 24DID lines from M/s. Kansan Communications, Polarise Building, Hiranandani Complex, Thane, Mumbai	ILL (512 Kbps M/s. RPG. Infotech Ltd., 24 DID Extn.s)	15/03/04
23.	Shri Ram Bhuwan, Opp. Abhyudaya Co-Op Bank, Bafina Nagar Off. Marve Road, Malad (W) Mumbai	ILL (512 Kbps M/s PaceNet along with 24 Organge Mobile Phones)	31/01/04

1	2	3	4
24.	Net-4 India Ltd., 210, Shah & Nahar Indl. Estate, dr. E' Moses Road, Worli Naka, Worli, Mumbai-18	INTERNET	11.02.2004
25.	Haren Narayan Khatri, Shop No. 5, Grd. Floor, Hari Bhawan Society S.L. Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-400080	Internet (Hotfoon)	06.03.2004
26.	R. Bhanushali Flat 28, 5th Flr. Meerashyam CHS, Goshala Road, Mulund (W) Mumbai 400080	Internet (Hotfoon)	06.03.2004
27.	B-1, Mahavir Ashish, Goshala Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-400080	Internet (Hotfoon)	06.03.2004
28.	32 Geetanjali Mayuresh, Plot No. 109, Devi Dayal Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai - 400080	Internet (Hotfoon)	06.03.2004
29.	34 Om Mayuresh, Meetha Nagar Road, Mulund (East), Mumbai	Internet (Hotfoon)	06.03.2004
30.	M/s. Geneieve D'Souza, 37 Agnello Abobe, Carmel CHS, 15th John Baptist Road, Bandra Mumbai	Internet (Hotfoon)	06/03.2004
31.	M/s Stellar Web Studio Pune	IPLC	07.02.2004
32.	M/s. Classic Communication, Sh Jaspreet Singh, N13, Shop No. 5 & 6, South Extn,-1, New Delhi	IPLC	23.03.2004
33.	W-111, IInd Floor, G.K.-I, New Delhi, Mr. Garry	IPLC	23.03.2004

Statement-III

Details of firm/company/infocom indulged in the illegal routing during the year 2004 - Till date

Sl. No.	Name of firm/Company/infocom	International Connectivity Misused	Date of Raid
1	2	3	4
1.	A D.6A, Devi Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur	ILL	16.10.2004
2.	M/s. Micro Software Solutions, Room No. 316, SDF Building, 2nd Floor, Calcutta-700091	INTERNET Leased line (ILL)	16.06.2004
3.	Shri S.S. Kadari, Building No. 151, R. No. 4142, Prabhat CHSL, New Pant Nagar, Ghatkoper (E), Mumbai-75	INTERNET (Hotfoon)	05.04.2004
4.	Mr. Parminder Singh, Shop No. 209, IInd Floor, Lotus Tower, Jallunder	IPLC	02.07.2004
5.	Mr. Jaspal Singh, Shop No. 406, IInd Floor, Palm Rose Building, World Trade Centre, Jallunder	IPLC	02.07.2004
6.	Mr. Naresh Kumar Gupta, Gaushade Market, Jallunder	IPLC	07.08.2004
7.	SCO 81-82, Sector 34, Chandigarh	IPLC	19.08.2004
8.	SCO 371-373, IInd Floor, Sector 34, Chandigarh	IPLC	19.08.2004
9.	Flat No. 606, Mahavir Apartments, King Kothi Road, Hyderabad	ILL	10.11.2004
10.	Shri T. Sumithran, 6/334B, Palakkal Thazhevedu, St. Thomas School, Kallayam, Trivandrum	INTERNET	07.04.2004

1	2	3	4
11.	Shri V. Sivakumar, T.C. 39/695, Panduranga lane, Sivanilayam, Chalaj, Trivandrum	INTERNET	08.04.2004
12.	Mr. Naveen Grover, F-212 Mansarover Garden, New Delhi	ILL from Dishnet	17.05.2004
13.	Mr. Naveen Grover, M/s. ACE Poly Varicon Electronics, 57, Flatted Factories, Jhandewalan, New Delhi.	ILL from VSNL & ILL from Dishnet	17.05.2004
14.	Mr. Naveen Grover, 321, Udyog Vihar, Phase-II, Gurgaon	PRI from BSNL	17.05.2004
15.	Mr. Naveen Grover, 62, ETPH, Sector 34, Gurgaon	ILL from Bharti & PRI from BSNL	17.05.2004
16.	M/s. BSP Marketing, 119/2nd flr. Govind Puri	ILL from Reliance (M/s Gateway)	05.08.2004
17.	M/s. Christian Academy, Nanak Pura, New Delhi	IPLC from VSNL	08.09.2004
18.	Sagar Tent House, IInd Floor, AWANA Building, ATTA Market, Sector 27, Noida U.P.	ILL from World Web Phone	18.09.2004
19.	Sanjeev Solanki, D-49, Palam Village, New Delhi.	ILL from Primenet Global	07.10.2004
20.	IInd Floor, Room No. 203, House No. 25/34, Anand Chambers, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi	ILL from Spectranet	26.10.2004
21.	B-27, Ramprastha, Sahibabad, UP Ghaziabad	ILL from M/s REACH	10.11.2004
22.	Rishab Vihar, LSC-2, Shop No. 103, New Delhi	ILL from M/s. Reach	10.11.2004
23.	M/s. Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL)	Notice to M/s. RIL for imposing a penalty of Rs. 150 crores for violation of licence agreements issued on 24/11/2004 by the Government. BSNL has issued notices to M/s. RIL to pay Rs. 257 crores. M/s. RIL has approached the Delhi High Court and an interim stay has been granted against disconnection of Point of Interconnection. M/s. RIL has so far paid approximately Rs. 100 crores against this demand. MTNL has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s. RIL. M/s. RIL has paid approximately Rs. 67 crores to MTNL against the claim raised.	

Statement-IV***Details of Licensed Service provider firm/company/infocom charged by the Government***

Sl. No.	Name of firm/company/infocom	Charged/penalty raised by the Government
1.	Spectranet	2.34 Cr, Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
2.	Primenet Global	0.23 Cr
3.	Dishnet	2.27 Cr, Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
4.	Primus	0.08 Cr , Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
5.	Trakonline	0.72 Cr , Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
6.	Vertec	0.10 Cr , Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
7.	VSNL	0.12 Cr , Case filed by the party in TDSAT, Orders awaited
8.	Reliance Infocomm Limited	Notice to M/s. RIL for imposing a penalty of Rs. 150 Crores for violation of license agreement issued on 24th November 2004. BSNL has issued notices to M/s. RIL to pay Rs. 257 crores. M/s. RIL has approached the Delhi High Court and an interim stay has been granted against disconnection of Point of Interconnection. M/s. RIL has so far paid approximately Rs. 100 crores against this demand. MTNL has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s. RIL. M/s. RIL has paid approximately Rs. 67 crores to MTNL against the claim raised.
9.	Wipro Ltd.	Case under progress, Party filed a case in High Court
10.	SAB info Tech	Case under progress
11.	Trident Netcom Solution	Case under progress
12.	HFCL Infotel	Case under progress
13.	Shivam Datatec	Case processed and licence terminated
14.	Sigma Online	Case processed and licence terminated
15.	Manga Corp	Case processed and licence terminated
16.	Capital Online	Case processed and licence terminated

Rural Health Mission

*9. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN :

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan under Rural Health Mission to improve the health care in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds earmarked/released for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan so far, State-wise;

(d) whether a Conference of Health Ministers of the States was held in the month of October in this regard;

(e) if so, the main points discussed and the results thereof;

(f) whether all the States have agreed to adopt this programme and have also created the requisite health infrastructure; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such a proposal is under the consideration of the Government. Under this, it is proposed to launch a National Rural Healthcare Mission (NRHM) throughout the country to provide

comprehensive integrated healthcare services to the people, especially to the rural poor. The Mission proposes to initially focus on the 17 States, including 8 EAG States (U.P., M.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh), 8 North Eastern States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura) and Jammu and Kashmir. The Mission aims at systemic and structural reform for ensuring intra and intersectoral convergence; greater role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for planning and supervising discharge of public health duties; strengthening public health infrastructure; Public-Private Partnership for health; and increasing community ownership of the Health and Family Welfare Programme through a cadre of voluntary female Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

(c) The Scheme is under formulation. No funds have been released so far under the Scheme.

(d) and (e) A Constitution was organized by the Union Health Minister, on 2nd November 2004, with 22 States, of which 12 were represented at the level of Minister. The main issues discussed related to the interventions proposed under the Mission, especially relating to a new cadre of voluntary female Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) at village levels; strengthening of the Sub-centre, PHC and CHC; provision of flexible funds at Sub-centre level to address the unmet needs; supplies of additional generic drugs (both AYUSH and allopathic) for common ailments; steps for improving the availability of doctors in rural areas and operationalization of First Referral Units; merger of vertical Funds & Societies of the Departments of Health and Family Welfare at district and State levels; improved programme management capacities; establishment of State Rural Healthcare Mission (SRHM) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister; and creation of the District Health Development Agency (DHDA) at district levels. There was agreement on the board strategies of the Mission. However, the States requested for greater flexibility to work out the details of specific interventions, within the overall policy guidelines.

(f) and (g) All the 17 States have agreed, in principle, to adopt this programme. Creation of health infrastructure is not a pre-condition to the launch of the Programme. Augmentation of infrastructure will be undertaken once the programme is launched.

Child Mortality Rate

*10. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether child mortality has increased because of diphtheria and measles;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring down the infant mortality rate to zero level;

(c) whether too much focus on the polio programme has resulted in the neglect of other vaccine preventable diseases in the country;

(d) if not, the reasons for the non-decline of IMR; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the health of the infants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) There is no evidence that child mortality has increased because of diphtheria and measles. In fact child mortality has declined from 26.3 in 1990 to 20.4 in 1999 as per the latest report of Registrar General, India.

(b) to (e) The infant mortality rate (IMR) has declined from 80 in 1990 to 63 in 2002 as per the latest report of Registrar General, India. The major causes of IMR are:-

- (i) Pre-maturity
- (ii) Pneumonia
- (iii) Respiratory infection
- (iv) Congenital malformation
- (v) Anemia
- (vi) Diarrhea of new born
- (vii) Birth injury
- (viii) Tetanus Neo-natorum
- (ix) Diarrhea and gastroenteritis
- (x) Convulsions

The additional steps taken for Polio eradication have led to no neglect of other vaccine preventable disease interventions in the country. The infant mortality rate (IMR) has declined from 80 in 1990 to 63 in 2002 as per the latest report of Registrar General, India.

The following interventions are being implemented in order to reduce the infant mortality rate (IMR) in the country.

Interventions under Maternal Health

1. Essential obstetric care including antenatal check-up, safe delivery services and post natal care.
2. Emergency obstetric care.
3. Provision of contractual staff like Laboratory Technician, Public Health Nurses and additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs).

4. Hiring of Anesthetists and Safe Motherhood consultants for provision of emergency obstetric care and safe abortion services, etc.
5. Provision of drugs and equipment at sub-centers, primary health centers community health centers/first referral units.
6. A scheme for 24 hour delivery services at selected primary health centers and community health centers.
7. Provision of funds for Referral transport for pregnant women belonging to indigent families, through Panchayats.
8. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.
9. Prevention, management and control of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI)/Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)
10. Intensification of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programme for Maternal and Child Health through the mass media as also decentralized local specific activities at the grassroot level.
11. Involvement of NGOs in awareness generation and service delivery where government services are not adequate.
12. Training of medical/paramedical and other services providers.
13. National Maternity Benefit Scheme
14. Training of Dais
15. RCH Camps in remote and underutilized Primary Health Centres particularly in EAG States.

Intervention under Child Health

1. Strengthening of routine immunisation with focus on Measles vaccination of children and Tetanus Toxioid (TT) vaccination to pregnant women.
2. Promotion of breast feeding
3. Promotion of Oral re-dehydration therapy for control of diarrhoeal disease.
4. New born care including management of acute respiratory infections.

Performance of Ports

*11. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, till date; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the efficiency of the ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The review of the performance of major ports in the country is continuous process. The port-wise cargo traffic handled during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (April to October, 2004) is given below:-

Name of the Port	(In Million tonnes)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April-October)
Kolkata	35.80	41.05	23.78
Paradip	23.90	25.31	16.92
Visakhapatnam	46.01	47.74	27.68
Ennore	8.49	9.28	5.49
Chennai	33.69	36.71	23.95
Tuticorin	13.29	13.68	9.19
Cochin	13.00	13.57	8.26
New Mangalore	21.43	26.67	18.59
Mormugao	23.65	27.88	13.12
Jawaharlal Nehru	26.84	31.18	18.95
Mumbai	26.80	29.96	19.91
Kandla	40.63	41.52	23.75
Total	313.53	344.55	209.59

(c) Improvement in efficiency in Major Ports is an ongoing process. To increase efficiency of major ports, the following major steps have been taken from time to time in relation to major ports:-

- (i) Construction and equipping of new berths/ terminals;
- (ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-art equipment on existing berths;
- (iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency output;
- (iv) Private sector involvement in the development and operation of port facilities to bring out

- additional investment and modern techniques for greater efficiency;
- (v) Computerisation of port working and partial induction of Electronic Data Interchange; and
- (vi) Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System.

[Translation]

Use of Indian Languages in Competitive Examinations

*12. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided option to write answers in Indian languages in all competitive examinations for making recruitment to its different services;

(b) if so, the comprehensive list of all such services and languages;

(c) whether the resolution to this effect passed by the Parliament on January 18, 1968 has been implemented in toto;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Government proposes to implement the same; and

(e) the progress made so far in the direction for the implementation of the resolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) The Official Language Resolution, 1968 passed by both the Houses of the Parliament, *inter-alia* resolved that all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and English shall be permitted as alternative medium for the All India and higher Central Services Examinations, after ascertaining the views of the UPSC on the future scheme of the examinations, the procedural aspects and the timing. In pursuance of the Resolution, the option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India has been extended only in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by UPSC.

(b) The services for which recruitment is made through the Civil Services Examination conducted by UPSC are as follows:-

1. The Indian Administrative Service
2. The Indian Foreign Service

3. The Indian Police Service
4. The Indian P & T Accounts and Finance Service, Group 'A'
5. The Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Group 'A'
6. The Indian Customs and Central Excise Service, Group 'A'
7. The Indian Defence Accounts Service, Group 'A'
8. The Indian Revenue Service, Group 'A'
9. The Indian Ordnance Factories Service, Group 'A' (Asst. Works Manager-Non-Technical)
10. The Indian Postal Service, Group 'A'
11. The Indian Civil Accounts Service Group 'A'
12. The Indian Railway Traffic Service, Group 'B'
13. The Indian Railway Accounts Service, Group 'A'
14. The Indian Railway Personnel Service, Group 'A'
15. Post of Assistant Security Officer, Group 'A' in Railway Protection Force, Group 'A'
16. The Indian Defence Estate Service, Group 'A'
17. The Indian Information Service, Group 'A'
18. The Indian Trade Service, Group 'A'
19. Posts of Deputy SP in Police in CBI, Group 'A'
20. The Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Civil Service, Group, 'B'
21. The Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Police Service, Group 'B'
22. The Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Service, Group 'B' (Section Officer's Grade), Group 'B'
23. Pondicherry Police Service, Group 'B'
24. Pondicherry Civil Service, Group 'B'
25. Railway Board Secretariat Service (Section Officer's Grade) Group 'B'
26. Customs Appraisers (Group 'B')

The languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India are as follows :-

1. Assamese
2. Bengali

3. Gujarati
4. Hindi
5. Kannada
6. Kashmiri
7. Konkani
8. Malayalam
9. Manipuri
10. Marathi
11. Nepali
12. Oriya
13. Punjabi
14. Sanskrit
15. Sindhi
16. Tamil
17. Telugu
18. Urdu
19. Bodo
20. Dogari
21. Maithili
22. Santhali

(c) to (e) : The question of extension of this facility to other examinations conducted by UPSC is under consideration of the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to evolve a consensus, before formulating a nationally acceptable policy, after holding wider consultation with State Governments and others concerned, efforts for which are continuing.

[English]

Violation of Vienna Convention Norms

- *13. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI K. S. RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that some foreign missions were violating norms

of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations by not allowing the law of the land;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) No case of violation of the Vienna Conventions since August 2003 has come to the Ministry's attention.

Ministry has, however, come across 20 incidents of violations of the Vienna Conventions involving Embassy officials and their kin during the last three years upto July 2003.

Of these 20 cases, in 16 cases Pakistani diplomats/officials were involved in anti-India activities. Two cases were of Russian diplomats who were involved in rash and negligent driving which resulted in death of a person in each case. One case was of the son of Senegalese Ambassador who was involved in an altercation with an Indian driver of the Embassy which led to accidental death of the driver. The last case was of the Kenyan Defence Advisor and two other diplomats who were involved in illegal activities like storage and sale of duty free liquor in collaboration with some Indian nationals.

In the case of Pakistani diplomats, they were declared *persona non grata*. In the rest of the cases, Ministry asked for waiver of immunity to prosecute the involved persons. The countries concerned, however, withdrew the diplomats.

India is a signatory to the Vienna Convention. As per Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, a diplomat enjoys immunity from criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State. Article 37 extends this immunity to the members of the family of the diplomat provided they are not nationals of the receiving State. According to Article 32, the immunity of the diplomat may be waived by the sending State. Our policy remains consistent with our international treaty obligations, international custom and practice.

Length of Highways

- *14. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI :
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government had planned to connect North-South, East-West with 4 laned highways, under the NHDP in the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the present status of National Highways length, stretch-wise completed, with dates of completion, length, stretch-wise under implementation, with dates of start and target dates of completion; and

(c) the schedule for start and completion for the balance of lengths, corridor-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.S. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State-wise length distribution of North-South and East-West Corridors is given in the enclosed statement -I.

(b) The status of National Highways stretch-wise completed, with dates of completion under the North-South and East-West Corridors is given in the enclosed Statement - II. The status of National Highways stretch-wise under implementation, with dates of start and target dates of completion, under the North-South and East-West corridors is given in the enclosed Statement - III.

(c) The works on the balance of lengths under the North-South and East-West corridors are scheduled to be awarded by June 2005 and the entire work is targeted to be completed by December 2007.

Statement-I

State-wise length of National Highways under North South & East West Corridors

All figures are in km.

Sl. No.	State	North South Corridor	East West Corridor
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	763.00	
2.	Assam		732.00
3.	Bihar		511.00
4.	Delhi	21.00	
5.	Gujarat		634.00
6.	Haryana	183.00	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	11.00	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	448.00	
9.	Karnataka	92.00	
10.	Kerala	168.00	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	547.00	110.00

1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	276.00	
13.	Punjab	270.00	
14.	Rajasthan	30.00	526.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	772.00	
16.	Uttar Pradesh	202.00	647.00
17.	West Bengal		331.00
Total		3783	3491

Statement-II

Completed Stretches in fully completed projects of North South & East West Corridor

Status as on 31st October, 2004

Sl.No.	Stretches	NH	Length (Km)	Date of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar (NS-16/PB) km 26-km 4.23	1A	21.77	Oct-04
2.	Saral Cholla to Morena (NS-20/MP) km 70.00-km 85.00	3	15.00	Aug-04
3.	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28/KL) km 332.6 to km 316.70	47	16.60	Jun-04
4.	Guwahati Bypass (EW-14/AS) km 156.00 to km 146.00	37	10.50	Jun-04
5.	Jalandhar Bypass (NS/1) km 387.1 of NH-1, km 4.23 of NH - 1A	1	14.40	Jun-04
6.	Bangalore - Salem - Madurai (NS-27/TN) km 248.0 - km 259.6	7	8.40	Apr-04
7.	Dalkola-Islampur (EW/5) km 470 - km 477	31	23.00	Mar-04
8.	Guwahati Bypass (EW/7) km 163.895 to km 156.00	37	8.00	Dec-03
9.	Palampur-Dessa (EW-11/GJ) km 350.00-km 372.70	14	22.70	Feb-03

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
10.	MP/Raj Border to Sarai Cholla (NS/6) km 61 - km 70	3	9.00	Jan-03	21.	Six laning of Kamaspur to Haryana.Delhi Border (NS/2) km 44.3 - km 29.3	1	15.00	Nov-01	
11.	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar (NS/9) km 22.3 - km 34.8	7	12.50	Jan-03	22.	Avathi village to Nandi Hills cross & Six laning of Devanhalli-Meenukunte (NS/10) km 524 - km 527 & km 535 - km 539	7	7.00	Jul-01	
12.	Salem Bypass (NS/12) km 199.2 - km 207.6	7	8.40	Jan-03	23.	Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur (EW/1) km 340 - km 350	14	10.00	Apr-01	
13.	Ribda to Condal Section (EW-10/GJ) km 160 - km 143	8B	17.00	Oct-02	24.	Manla - Dholpur (NS/5) km 41 - km 51	3	10.00	Mar-01	
14.	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amarawati	7	9.36	Sep-02	25.	Bowenpalli (Hyderabad city) to Shivarampalli km 0.00 - km 9.200	7	9.20	Apr-98	
15.	Construction of Karur ROB	7	0.84	Sep-02	26.	Nagpur - Chinchbhuvan km 0.00 - km 9.200	7	9.20	Apr-98	
16.	Lucknow Kanpur section (EW/2) km 11.38 - km 21.8	25	10.42	Aug-02	27.	Jalandhar - Ambala km 372.7 - km 212	1	160.70	Apr-01	
17.	Thopurghar Section (NS-14) km 156 - 163.4	7	7.40	Apr-02	28.	Rajkot - Ribda km 175 - km 160	8B	15.00	Jul-02	
18.	Kalkallu village to Gundla Pochampali (NS/8) km 447 - km 464	7	17.00	Apr.02	29.	Thrissur - Kochi Section km 332.0 - km 349.0	47	17.00	Mar-99	
19.	Chinchbguvan-Butibori-Borkhedi (NS/7) km 9.2 - km 22.85 & km 24.65 - km 36.6	7	25.60	Mar-02	30.	Ambala - Panipat km 212 - km 96	1	116.00	Jul-01	
20.	Agra-Raj/Up Border (NS/4) km 8 - km 24	3	16.00	Nov-01	31.	Bamaborr-Rajkot km 216 - km 185	8B	31.00	Jul-02	
							Total length		674.00	

Statement-III*Details of North South & East West Contracts Under Implementation as on 31st October, 2004*

Sl. No.	Stretch	State	NH No.	Length (km.)	Date of Start	Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
East - West Corridor						
1.	Dalkola Islampur Sub Section 2 (EW/6) km 500 to km 476.15	West Bengal	31	23.85	April 2000	March, 2005
2.	Purnea-Gayakota (EW/4) km 476.15 to km 470 & km 419 to km 410	Bihar	31	15.15	December, 1999	March, 2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Purnea-Gykota (EW-12/BR) km 447 to km 419	Bihar	31	28	September 2001	December, 2005
4.	Lucknow Bypass (EW-15/UP) Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH-56 passing through Lucknow city	Uttar Pradesh	25, 28 & 56	22.85	September 2001	June, 2005
5.	Lucknow-Kanpur Section (EW-8/UP) km 21.80 to km 44.00	Uttar Pradesh	25	22.2	September 2001	March, 2005
6.	Lucknow-Kanpur Section (EW-9/UP) km 44 to km 59.5	Uttar Pradesh	25	15.5	September 2001	March, 2005
7.	Lucknow- Kanpur (EW/3) km 59.5 to km 75.5	Uttar Pradesh	25	16	December 2003	December, 2005
North-South Corridor						
8.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/J & K) km 97 to km 80	Jammu and Kashmir	1A	17.2	January 2002	August, 2005
9.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonapat) (NS-17/HR) km 66.00 to km 44.30	Haryana	1	21.7	August 2001	December, 2005
10.	Eight laning of Haryan/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk (NS-18/DL) km 29.3 to km 16.5	Delhi	1	12.9	August 2001	December, 2005
11.	Eight laning of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi) (NS3/DL) km 16.2 to km 8.2	Delhi	1	8.5	November 2001	June, 2005
12.	Raj/UP Border to Mania (NS-19/UP/RJ) km 24 to km 41	Uttar Pradesh (7)/Rajasthan (10)	3	17	August 2001	December, 2004
13.	Morena-Rairu (Start of Gwalior bypass) (NS-21/MP) km 85.00 to km 103.00	Madhya Pradesh	3	18	August 2001	February, 2005
14.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivrapalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP) km 464.00 to km 474.00 & km 9.20 to km 22.30	Andhra Pradesh	7	23.1	September 2001	June, 2005
15.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalli & Six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal (NS-24/KN) km 539 to km 556 & km 527 to km 535	Karnataka	7	25	September 2001	June, 2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Thumpipadi to Salem (NS-26/TN) km 180 to km 199.20	Tamil Nadu	7	19.2	September 2001	April, 2005
17.	Silchar - Udarband km 309 to km 275.00	Assam	54	34	September 2004	September 2007
18.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS/30) km 286 to km 303.8	Jammu & Kashmir	1A	17.8	November 2003	May, 2006
19.	Kanyakumari - Panagudi (NS/32) km 203 to km 233.6	Tamil Nadu	7	30.6	March 2004	September, 2006

Introduction of Dispute Resolution Mechanism

*15. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced any Dispute Resolution Mechanism to address complaints/grievances from consumers of telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Telecom proposes to introduce and enforce a uniform billing format devoid of technical jargon applicable to State owned and private telecom service providers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A well defined structured dispute resolution mechanism to address complaints/grievances from consumers of Telecom services exist in Department of Telecom and state owned PSUs i.e. BSNL, MTNL.

- (i) Apart from complaint booking on prescribed toll-free numbers the Public Grievance Cell headed by Joint Secretary level officer is functional in DOT, BSNL and MTNL. The PG Cell in Telecom circles is operational right from the Corporate Office to SSA level.
- (ii) The telephone adalats, open house sessions are being held periodically at SSA level and circle level to redress the grievances and petitions.
- (iii) Apart from above, a consumer can approach Consumer Forum for settlement of a dispute.
- (iv) A group of consumers can also approach TDSAT (Telecom Dispute Settlement and

Appellate Tribunal) for a dispute resolution against the service provider.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Dilapidated Condition of National Highways

*16. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India loses around Rs. 10,000 crore a year due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of roads as reported in the *Times of India* dated October 21, 2004;

(b) if so, whether 50% of National Highways are in highly dilapidated condition; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the capacity utilisation and improve the quality of roads?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) The newspaper report appears to be based on a report of an Expert Group set up in 1996. It is not possible to quantify accurately the economic losses due to bad condition of the main roads.

(b) No, Sir. The National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) Several measures/programmes like National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (IRQP) and other developmental activities have been taken up for enhancement of the capacity and quality of the National Highways.

Foreign Direct Investment in Telecom Sector

*17. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign direct investment proposals approved by the Government in the telecom sector;

(b) the total amount of investment involved in these proposals;

(c) the places where these investments are proposed to be made, State-wise; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) A total of 930 foreign direct investment proposals for the telecom sector for an amount of Rs. 41369.11 crore have been approved upto September, 2004.

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

Statement

State-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment proposals in Telecom Sector approved by Government during August, 1991 to September, 2004

Sl. No.	Name of the States	No. of Proposals approved	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	12.34
2.	Bihar	02	2.38
3.	Gujarat	10	437.90
4.	Haryana	21	145.60
5.	Himachal Pradesh	05	810.83
6.	Karnataka	63	760.30
7.	Kerala	04	1.03
8.	Madhya Pradesh	03	0.32
9.	Maharashtra	134	1873.97
10.	Orissa	02	11.28
11.	Punjab	11	169.98
12.	Rajasthan	03	59.80
13.	Tamil Nadu	53	619.69
14.	Uttar Pradesh	10	46.71

1	2	3	4
15.	West Bengal	31	562.04
16.	Uttaranchal	01	73.50
17.	Chandigarh	05	64.55
18.	Delhi	208	15757.79
19.	Goa	08	55.20
20.	Pondicherry	03	0.49
21.	State not indicated	338	19903.42
Total		930	41369.11

Discontinuing use of Painkiller Rofecoxib

*18. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :

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

(a) whether serious steps have not been undertaken by the Government to discontinue the use of the popular painkiller 'ROFECOXIB' even after scientists have raised questions about its safety;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the authoritative medical journal "LANCET" in its latest issue has revealed the side-effects of using the said drug;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said drug has already been withdrawn from several foreign markets;

(f) if so, the names of such countries; and

(g) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to withdraw this drug from the Indian markets urgently?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (g) As soon as the report about voluntary withdrawal of Rofecoxib by the innovator firm M/s. Merck, USA became known on 30th September, 2004, immediate measures were initiated to review the safety profile of the drug in India where this drug is being manufactured and marketed by a number of firms.

An emergency meeting of the National Pharmacovigilance Advisory Committee was convened on 11th October, 2004, to consider the situation arising out of the

voluntary withdrawal of the said drug by the innovator firm M/s Merck, USA. After examining the available information including the article in the Journal 'LANCET', it was decided by the Committee to discontinue the use of Rofecoxib in the country. A press note to this effect was also issued on 12th October, 2004. The prohibition to manufacture and sell the drug across the country has to be done through Notification under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945. This Notification is being issued accordingly.

There is no information available about the withdrawal of the drug by the regulatory agency of any country prior to its voluntary withdrawal by M/s Merck, USA.

[Translation]

Migration of Doctors/Nurses

*19. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA :

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to check the migration of doctors and nurses from the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of doctors who migrated from the country during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the migration of doctors and nurses from the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) As per information available with the Government, a total of 6,04,489 Allopathic doctors were registered with the Medical Council of India till March, 2003. Besides, there are around six lakhs Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathic doctors registered with their respective Councils. The norm for availability of doctors to the population in the country has been recommended to be as 1:2000 by the Bhole Committee. As per information with the Medical Council of India, the availability of Allopathic doctors is at present in the ratio of 1:1800. If the practitioners of Indian Systems of medicine and Homoeopathy are also taken into account, the ratio of availability of doctors to the population improves further. Though there is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors produced, there is a geographical and speciality-wise imbalance in the availability of doctors.

Presently there are 229 medical colleges in the country with an annual admission capacity of 25,682 MBBS students.

Presently there are about 745 Diploma Nursing Schools

and 254 BSc.(N) colleges functioning in the country. As per information available with the Government, about 40,000 nurses qualify every year.

As regards the number of doctors and nurses who migrated from the country during the last three years, no such data is maintained centrally.

There is currently no proposal to check migration of doctors and nurses to foreign countries.

[English]

Performance of BSNL and MTNL

*20. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profits of MTNL and BSNL has fallen sharply during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of profits earned by these PSUs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the sharp fall in their profits; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these PSUs do not become sick?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, details of the profits earned by BSNL and MTNL during the last three years are as follows:

Profit after Tax (PAT)	(Figures in crore of Rs.)		
P.S.U.s	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
B.S.N.L.	6312.17	1444.45	5976.52
M.T.N.L.	1300.67	877.15	1150.48

The profit after tax of MTNL and BSNL have risen in the year 2003-04 after the fall registered in the previous year.

(c) The fall in profits during the year 2002-03 was primarily due to reduction in tariffs, surrender of landless, highly competitive environment and provisioning of higher level of expenditure for certain statutory items.

(d) Despite highly competitive environment profits of both the PSUs i.e. MTNL and BSNL have shown upward trend. Both the PSUs are continuously making efforts for sustaining good performance, increase in their business, introduction of new services and add customer satisfaction.

Landline and Cellular Connections

1. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline and Cellular connections both in rural and urban areas at the end of 2003 and 2004;

Year	Land line + WLL (In lakhs)		Cellular (PSUs+Pvt.) (In lakhs)		Land line + Cellular (In lakhs)		Total (In lakhs)
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
March, 03	305.23	114.07	128.87	0	432.10	114.07	546.17
March, 04	381.13	122.72	261.55	0	642.68	122.72	765.40

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the NTP-1999, a tele-density target of 7% was fixed to be achieved by 2005 and 15% by 2010.

(c) BSNL has planned to provide 1 crore telephone connections in the year 2004-2005. This includes 7.5 lakhs landlines, 22.5 lakhs WLL connections and 70 lakhs Cellular Mobile connections & MTNL has fixed target of 5 lakhs telephones. In addition, the Private Operators are also providing telephones at an increasing pace. As a result, the tele-density increased from 5.11% in March, 2003 to 7.02% in March, 2004, and thus the target fixed for 2005 has been achieved much in advance.

Hi-Tech Electronic Goods

2. SHRI S. P. Y. REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to offer incentives to companies which undertake the manufacture of Hi-tech electronic goods like cell phone, Motherboards etc. in order to save precious foreign exchange;

(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) Government has provided incentives to the manufacturers of Electronics/IT goods including hi-tech electronic goods. The details of the incentives provided in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to Promote the IT Hardware Sector

1. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and

(b) whether any target has been fixed to increase the tele density; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Details of the land line and cellular connections are as under :-

sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

3. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.

4. Peak rate of customs duty continues to be 20%. Customs duty on project imports with investment of at least Rs. 5 crore in plants and machinery is @ 10%. Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals is @ 10%. All storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors are at 0%. Customs duty on parts of computers and SMPS is fully exempted. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) bound items is as per commitments. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/ inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%. Specified infrastructure equipment for basic/cellular/internet, V-SAT, radio paging and public mobile radio trunked services and parts of such equipment are exempted from basic customs duty. Customs duty exemption to mobile switching centres presently available to cellular mobile telephone service providers has been extended to imports by universal access service providers. Customs duty on cellphones, parts of Set Top Box continues at 5%. Laptops brought as part of baggage are exempted from customs duty.

5. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drivers, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty. Pre-loaded

software on PCs, Audio CDs, Recorded VCDs and DVDs, Cellular Phones, Radio trunking terminals, Portable receivers for calling, altering or paging; parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones, Set Top Box remain exempted from excise duty.

6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. Import of second hand capital goods and import of capital goods for pre-production and post-production facilities are permitted under the scheme. Import of spares is also permitted to facilitate upgradation of existing plant and machinery.
7. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
8. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.
9. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for EOU/EHTP units.
10. Customs clearances are based on self assessment and selective examination.
11. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
12. EOU/EHTP units have been exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
13. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following special facilities:

- 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;

- Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.

15. All Star Export Houses (including Status Holders) which have achieved a minimum export turnover in free foreign exchange of Rs. 10 crore in the previous licencing year are entitled for a duty credit based on incremental exports substantially higher than the general annual export target fixed.
16. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries is permitted for import without a licence provided the depreciated value of such relocating plant exceeds Rs. 25 crore.
17. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

Link National Highway

3. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent six proposals to declare 'Link National Highway' vide its letter No. F (DS)/NH/CMS/59/2003/D 3260 dated March 19, 2004; and

(b) if so, the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads including 988 kms in Rajasthan as National Highways. Due to paucity of funds, the Central Government is now not in a position to declare more State Roads as National Highways.

Pending Assurances

4. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the assurances given to USQ Nos. 1241, 237, 2926, 2140, 2447, 21, 1951, 475 and 3844 dated 29.7.2003, 20.11.2002, 11.03.2003, 5.8.2003, 4.12.2002, 20.11.2002, 21.7.2004, 7.7.2004 and 8.4.2003 respectively and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether the assurance given to USQ 3844 has been pending since 8.4.2003 despite giving reply to USQ No. 475 dated 7.7.2004 that the matter of selling of Gateway brand typing and duplicating paper is under investigation by the vigilance department of Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the department has completed investigation and taken any action on the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (e) The information will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

By Pass on N.H. No. 3

5. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 4124 dated 25th August, 2004 and state:

(a) whether any target date has been given to the consultant to submit the final detailed project report on the construction of By-Pass on National Highway No. 3 at Dholpur in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been made on the finalisation of the project report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There has been a substantial progress in preparation of the Detailed Project Report. The consultant has given the target to submit the final Detailed Project Report by the February 2005.

Lowering Retirement Age

6. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to lower the retirement age of the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) No, Sir. No proposal to lower the retirement age of the Central Government employees is under consideration of the Government.

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

Works on Pune – Shirwal Section

7. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the works on Pune-Shirwal section on National Highway No. 4 which is part of Prime Ministers Golden Quadriangle are standstill for a very long time in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the works;

(d) whether the subways on Satana - Kolhapur section on NH-4 are below the approach road levels thus causing water logging in rainy season; and

(e) the levels of subways were deliberately sunken to reduce the earth work of the proposed highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROADS TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The work on Pune Shirwal section is in progress. The present status of the work is as follows:

(i) Westerly Diversion (Bypass to Pune) - Already completed.

(ii) Katraj Ghat realignment - 64% work completed.

(iii) Katraj - Sarole section in which Shirwal falls- 54% work completed.

(c) NHAI is closely monitoring the progress of on - going projects.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Equipments Lying unused in Government Hospitals

8. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many equipments/instruments are lying unused in the Central Government Hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Hospital-wise for the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these medical equipments functional and the action taken against erring officers for such irregularities during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) This information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BSNL Facility in West Bengal

09. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

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

(a) whether the BSNL facility is available in all the districts of Balurghat, Basarat and Jalpaiguri of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if no, the reasons therefor and the time by which all the districts of these areas are likely to be covered by BSNL facility;

(d) the total number of SIM cards provided in these areas;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance WLL facility in urban areas of these districts; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said service is likely to be started?

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

(b) All the districts of West Bengal including Balurghat (in Dakshin Dinajpur District), Barasat (in North 24 Paragana District) and Jalpaiguri (in Jalpaiguri District) have been covered by BSNL's cellular mobile service.

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

(d) Total number of SIM cards provided in these areas are as given below :-

Balurghat 15934 Nos.

Jalpaiguri 17350 Nos.

Barasat Barasat forms part of Calcutta Telecom District and total number of SIM cards provided in Calcutta Telecom District are 228264 Nos.

(e) There are no immediate plans to expand WLL facility in the Urban areas of the above mentioned Districts.

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

Setting up of Atomic Power Units

10. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nuclear Power Corporation has decided to set up new atomic power units in the country;

(b) if so, names of the places identified for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which the work on these new projects is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Nine new Atomic Power Units are presently at various stages of construction in the country. Eight of these are being constructed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) while the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor is being constructed by the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (BHAVINI). Further units have been planned but no decision has been taken.

(b) The nine projects are at Tarapur (2x540 Mwe) in Maharashtra, Kaiga (2x20 Mwe) in Karnataka, Rawatbhatta (2x220 Mwe) in Rajasthan, Kudankulam 2x1000 Mwe) in Tamil Nadu and Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (1x500 Mwe) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

(c) The work has commenced at all these projects.

Jute Industry

11. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any letter from West Bengal Chief Minister regarding Jute Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to take any action for revival, development and diversification of Jute Industry;

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

(e) whether the Government is contemplating a "National Jute Policy";

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by when the said policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINSITER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has received three letters from the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the first dated 23.04.2004 addressed to the Prime Minister, the second dated 22.06.2004 addressed to the Union Minister of Textiles and the third dated 16.7.2004 addressed to the Union Minister of Finance, on various issues relating to the jute industry:

(i) It has been ordered to pack foodgrains and sugar to the extent of 100% and 90% respectively in jute bags during the jute year 2004-05, ending on 30th June, 2005, under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(ii) There are several schemes to support and revive the jute industry, such as Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) incentive scheme for modernization of jute industry, External Market Assistance (EMA) scheme, National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD)'s schemes for Jute Service Centre, Raw Jute Materials Bank Scheme, Product Development and Market Support Schemes, Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme (JEAS), NGO Assistance Scheme, etc. The Ministry of Textiles has its flagship scheme of Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which includes the jute industry.

(iii) The Ministry of Textiles encourages diversification and modernization of the jute industry through Research and Development (R & D) support to the Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) and for capacity building and skill development through support to the Institute of Jute Technology (IJT).

(c) to (g) The Government is in the process of formulating a comprehensive jute policy. In order to solicit

viewpoints from all concerned stakeholders and to have detailed discussion on the subject, a National Conference on jute was convened at Kolkata on 19th and 20th November, 2004. Recommendations on the matter have been received. As policy formulation is a lengthy consultative process, it may not be appropriate to assign a time frame for announcing the jute policy at this stage.

Road Tax in Maharashtra

12. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement new road tax in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of road tax deposited with the Union Government by the State of Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(d) the total amount of road-tax likely to be received in year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Levy and collection of road tax falls under the purview of the State Government.

(c) The State Government does not deposit any part of the road tax with Union Government and this Ministry does not compile information on road tax collected by various States.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of Private Sector In Postal Services

13. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the arrival of private sector in the field of courier, speed post and parcel services;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of growth registered in the above services by the Department of Posts during the last 3 years;

(c) whether the private sector is performing better than the Government in the above services;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get a lead over private sector in this era of competition?

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

(b) The quantum of growth registered in premium products viz Speed Post, Express Parcel Post and Business Post offered by Department of Posts for mail services during the previous three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

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

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

Statement

Quantum of Revenue Earned during the last three years from premium products of Mail Segments

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the product	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Speed Post	196.53	243.01	298.35
Business Post	170.29	276.86	365.11
Express Post	19.31	26.09	31.45

Short Ages/Excess of Items in Kendriya Bhandar

14. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 3683 dated December 12, 2001 regarding shortage/excess of items in Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the system has been reviewed to ascertain if any corrective action is required to be taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Revised instructions have been issued for maintenance of Stock Register and accounting of excess/shortages.

Accidents on NH-2

15. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are taking place specially at Bhiringee More, Gandhi More, DVC More and Munchipara of Durgapur on NH-2;

(b) if so, whether the previous government gave the commitment to construct four road over bridge at the time of opening of NH-2 at Durgapur;

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the time by when the work is likely to be completed and the repairing work on the roads are to be carried out thereby making proper utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There have been reports of accidents at Bhiringee More, Gandhi More, DVC More and Munchipara of Durgapur on NH-2.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Government has not given any commitment to construct four road over bridges. However, the highway is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

Reservation Policy

16. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD :

SHRI MOHAN JENA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representations/requests received from 1.7.2003 to date from "All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment" on reservation and to include reservation issue in Common Minimum Programme of Government;

(b) whether any action has been taken on (a) above;

(c) if so, the details of action taken and the reply given to Association;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) by when the action will be taken to sort out the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) :
 (a) Representation have been received from the 'All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment' regarding implementation of reservation policy, filling up of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, enactment of law on reservation as stipulated in the National Common Minimum Programme.

(b) and (c) Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to fill up vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in direct Recruitment quota as well as promotion quota. A Bill on Reservation in services is also under preparation.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Action as at (b) and (c) shall be completed soon.

Reduction in Tariff of BSNL

17. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reduced its tariffs from fixed line subscribers;

(b) if so, the number of phases in which the tariffs have been reduced this year;

(c) the reasons for reducing the tariff in phases;

(d) the total tariff reduced in each phase; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) The main tariff reduction has been effected in three phases.

(c) Phase - I

Reduction has been made mainly on account of competition and new IUC. The reduction in ISD rate is mainly on account of termination charges effected by foreign carriers.

Phase - II

Based on competition in the market

Phase - III

Reduction in termination charges.

(d) and (e) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Reduction of Tariff of Fixed Line during year 2004

(Amount in Rupees/Minute)

Item	Old Rate		Revised Rate		0% of reduction	
	Peak	O/Peak	Peak	O/Peak	Peak	O/Peak
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Phase I (Effective from 10-04-2004)						
ISD Tariff						
USA	24.00	21.18	7.20	7.20	70%	66%
Canada	24.00	21.18	7.20	7.20	70%	66%
UK	24.00	21.18	7.20	7.20	70%	66%
Europe (other than UK)	24.00	21.18	9.60	9.60	60%	54.67%
Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong	21.18	18.00	9.60	9.60	54.67%	46.66%
SSRC & other neighbouring	21.18	18.00	18.00	18.00	15%	NIL
Rest of the World	24.00	21.18	18.00	18.00	25%	15%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STD Tariff						
Inter Circle						
>200-500 Kms	4.80	2.40	3.60	2.40	25%	Nil
>500 Kms	4.80	4.80	3.60	3.60	25%	25%
Phase II (Effective from 10-09-2004)						
Intra Circle						
>100	1.80	1.80	1.20	1.20	33.33%	33.33%
Inter Circle						
>200-500 Kms	3.60	2.40	2.40	2.40	33.33%	Nil
>500 Kms	3.60	3.60	2.40	2.40	33.33%	33.33%
Phase III (Effective from 21-10-2004)						
ISD Tariff						
Sri Lanka	18.00	18.00	12.00	12.00	33.33%	33.33%

• Per minute rates are based on Rs. 1.20 per pulse.

• Above tariff is applicable for Basic to Basic.

Infertility Clinics

18. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether "infertility clinics" are working in India;
- if so, whether some guidelines have been laid down to run such clinics by the Centre;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any case has been reported for violation of the guidelines;
- if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- whether the Government is planning to enact any law in this regard; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with National Academy of Medical Sciences, has drafted "National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART clinics in India" which are presently under examination in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Functioning of Rural Telephone

19. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether most of the rural telephones in Keonjhar district in Orissa are frequently remaining out of order;
- if so, the reasons for the same; and
- the steps proposed to be taken for the smooth functioning of these rural telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Rural telephones in Keonjhar District in Orissa are mostly working satisfactorily. However, sometimes WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) telephones are affected due to a poor electric supply conditions in villages.

(c) Following steps are being taken for further improvement of functioning of rural telephones :-

- (i) Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) exchanges into RSUs (Remote Switching Units).
- (ii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges in to AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (iii) Centralized fault booking at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre), through IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System).
- (iv) Provision of maintenance free battery sets.
- (v) All exchanges having digital reliable media.
- (vi) Provision of Engine Alternators in the exchanges.

Stop Supplying of Injection Insulin

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to stop supplying injections Insulin available in "penfill" to CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the above supply has been restored to the existing Members of Parliament through Medical Centre, Parliament House Annexe;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received representations from ex-MPs and Juvenile diabetic patients to exempt them from the purview of its decision;

(f) if so, whether the government has considered their request;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, by when the government would take decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, this decision was taken because of high cost involved in purchase of Injection Penfill Insulin in comparison to conventional Human Insulin Vials.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is an interim measure till a final decision is arrived at.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) An Experts Committee had deliberated on this issue and the recommendations of the Experts are being examined.

Progress of NHAI in West Bengal

21. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the work of NHAI in North Bengal of West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government is facing any difficulty on the NHAI project in North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has got clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for NHAI in North Bengal;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action plan of the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The status of NHAI projects in North Bengal of West Bengal is as under :

(i) Total length 330.85 km

(ii) Four laned – 23 km

(iii) Four laning under progress - 23.85 km

(iv) Balance to be undertaken - 284 km of which Detailed Project for 83 km has been completed.

(b) to (f) The Detailed Project Report for the balance sections of NH 31 (km 551 to km 634) and NH 31C (km 105 to km 223) of the finalized alignment of the East-West corridor within North Bengal was taken up by NHAI but could not be completed due to lack of clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). Proposal for carrying out survey and investigation for the existing alignment of NH-31 and NH-31C has been submitted to MoEF for clearance, which is still awaited.

Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

22. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges alongwith their respective capacity functioning at present in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up new telephone exchanges and expand the capacity of existing exchanges during 2004-2005;

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

(d) the expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

(e) the places where telephone exchange buildings have been constructed and are being used at present in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of telephone exchanges along with their capacity functioning at present in Andhra Pradesh is 3325. District-wise breakup of capacity and numbers is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The location wise details of the new exchanges and the challenges where the capacity to be expanded is given in the enclosed statement - II.

(d) The expenditure likely to be involved therein is Rs. 125.09 Crôres approx. during the financial year 2004-05.

(e) The places where the telephone exchange buildings have been constructed and are being used at present is given in the enclosed statement - III.

Statement-I

Districtwise Number of Exchanges and Equipped Capacity as on 31.10.2004 of A.P. Circle

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of Exchanges	Equipped Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	109	98399
2.	Ananthapur	160	139003
3.	Chittoor	190	203783
4.	Cuddapah	118	114855
5.	East Godavari	155	253486
6.	Guntur	190	256414

1	2	3	4
7.	Hyderabad	76	653116
7a.	Rangareddy	129	321070
8.	Karimnagar	156	183428
9.	Khammam	152	121438
10.	Krishna	180	282194
11.	Kurnool	188	127006
12.	Mahabubnagar	179	113123
13.	Medak	127	109802
14.	Nalgonda	176	135828
15.	Nellore	159	149740
16.	Nizamabad	130	112796
17.	Prakasham	160	129980
18.	Srikakulam	94	67256
19.	Visakhapatnam	98	217148
20.	Vizianagaram	95	77494
21.	Warangal	131	146886
22.	West Godavari	173	227982
Total		3325	4242227

Statement-II

New Rural Exchanges

S.No.	Name of District	Name of Location of Exchange
1	2	3
1.	Anantapur	Marutla - II
2.	Chittoor	Mahal
3.	East Godavari	Y, Ramavaram
4.	Mahabubnagar	Madugula
5.	Visakhapatnam	G K Veedhi
6.	Khammam	Gundala
7.	Medak	Veerareddypally
8.	Nalgonda	Jalalpur

*Life expired E10B is planned for replacing with
ESWSD/OCB Technologies at the following places*

S.No.	Station	Capacity addition	Type
1.	Hyderabad	5000	EWSD
2.	Vijayawada	9000	EWSD
3.	Visakhapatnam	5000	EWSD
4.	Visakhapatnam	4000	OCB
Total		23000	

Expansions of exchanges SBM-RSU, C256-AN RAX

S. No.	Name of the SSA	No. of SBMs planned for Conversion into RSUs	No. of C256 boards planned for AN RAX Conversions
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	4	63
2.	Ananthapur	5	91
3.	Chittoor	24	143
4.	Cuddapah	19	72
5.	East Godavari	30	59
6.	Guntur	33	175
7.	Karimnagar	36	82
8.	Khammam	11	85
9.	Krishna	7	149
10.	Kurnool	3	196
11.	Mahabubnagar	13	170
12.	Medak	6	103
13.	Nalgonda	15	162
14.	Nellore	16	129
15.	Nizamabad	9	115
16.	Prakasham	17	109
17.	Rangareddy	8	62
18.	Srikakulam	10	69
19.	Visakhapatnam	9	61
20.	Vizianagaram	3	52

1	2	3	4
21.	Warangal	9	72
22.	West Godavari	18	85
23.	Hyderabad	00	00
Total		305	2304

Statement-III

*Status of Departmental T.E. Buildings in
AP Telecom as on 31.03.04*

S.No.	SSA	Departmental TE Buildings in use as on 31.03.2004
1.	Adilabad	19
2.	Ananthapur	28
3.	Chittoor	44
4.	Cuddapah	26
5.	East Godavari	44
6.	Guntur	28
7.	Hyderabad	41
7a.	Ranga Reddy	44
8.	Karimnagar	23
9.	Khammam	21
10.	Krishna	44
11.	Kurnool	28
12.	Mahabubnagar	29
13.	Medak	23
14.	Nalgonda	23
15.	Nellore	41
16.	Nizamabad	28
17.	Prakasham	15
18.	Srikakulam	11
19.	Visakhapatnam	17
20.	Vizianagaram	13
21.	Warangal	26
22.	West Godavari	40
Total		656

Human Cloning

23. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has morally rejected the concept of Human Cloning in the United Nations Legislative Committee and at the same supported the alternative of stem cells;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the arguments put forth in favour and against this proposal, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The country has not approved reproductive cloning. However, stem cell research has been permitted for therapeutic purpose as per the policy/guidelines laid down by Government of India.

(b) As per the policy, stem cell research should be promoted in the country in view of its clinical use. There are no special legal or ethical problems in respect to stem cells derived from adults, bone marrows or foetal cord blood. However, in respect to embryonic stem cells, embryos should not be generated for the sole purpose of obtaining stem cells. Only surplus or spare or supernumerary embryos can be used with the permission of couples from registered Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART), clinics.

(c) The views of the countries can be placed in two categories. One group recommended a ban on both reproductive and therapeutic cloning. The other group while endorsing a ban on reproductive cloning supported research on therapeutic cloning. Further, consultation to achieve a consensus is scheduled for February 2005.

Assistance to Residents Welfare Association

24. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the registered Residents Welfare Associations in the NCT of Delhi are being provided with financial assistance from the Union Government to run their welfare activities in their respective colonies;

(b) if so, the reasons alongwith norms/guidelines laid down by the Government to provide the financial assistance to all the registered Residents Welfare Associations;

(c) whether the Area Welfare Officers appointed

by the Government are authorized to interfere/circulate a circular to the residents on their own without informing/prior approval from the Ministry in the election process of such RWAs particularly in Vasant Vihar;

(d) if so, the reasons for interference in the autonomous RWAs; and

(e) if not, the action the Government proposes to take against the Area Welfare Officers for interfering in the functioning of such Associations?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Only such Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) of Central Government employees as are registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860 and fulfill conditions like adopting the model constitution prescribed by DoPT etc. are recognized by DoPT and considered eligible for financial assistance.

(c) The Area Welfare Officer acts as Liaison Officer between residents/recognized RWAs and various agencies like CGHS, CPWD, MCD, NDMC etc. The AWO is generally authorized to correspond with recognized RWAs on matters relating to residents' welfare. The AWO also plays a role in the election of Managing Committees of the Associations. He approves the appointment of Returning Officer Suggested by the Managing Committee or refers the same to the Chief Welfare Officer (CWO) for decision. He also acts as an Observer for elections and submits his report to CWO. The Vasant Vihar RWA is not recognized.

(d) The performance by the AWOs of their normal duties is not generally regarded as interference.

(e) Does not arise.

Revamping Reproductive and Child Health Programmes

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

(a) whether the Government is going to revamp the existing reproductive and child health programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private sector will be involved to provide child health care programme in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The key principles of the revamped Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme will include:

- Adoption of Sector-Wide Approach;
- Building State ownership by involving States and UTs from the outset in development of the programme;
- Decentralisation through development of need based State plans;
- Flexible programming;
- Capacity building at the District, State and the Central level to ensure improved programme implementation; and
- Convergence, both inter-sectoral as well as intrasectoral to optimise utilization of resources as well as Infrastructural facilities.

(c) and (d) Based upon a public private partnership framework, States and UTs will be encouraged to seek enhanced participation of the private sector in both urban as well as rural areas through social marketing and social franchising of RCH services.

Setting up of New Medical Colleges

26. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering setting up new Medical Colleges in every district of country and review the guidelines for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether some concessions, relaxations would be given for establishing medical colleges in rural areas, backward areas by private, corporate participation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal with the Government to set up new medical colleges in every district of the country. However, the Medical Council of India has proposed a review of the existing Regulations for establishing new medical colleges, the details of which are being worked out. Therefore, the Government is yet to accord its approval to it.

Kolachel Harbour as Mother Port

27. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Kolachel harbour in Kanyakumari district is a natural one having a depth of 55 feet and has international importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve this historic and natural port as a mother container port of international standard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The responsibility for development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Government concerned which also have administrative control over such ports under the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908. The responsibility for the development of Colachel Port, which is a minor port in Tamil Nadu, lies with the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Agro and Rural Industries in Uttaranchal

28. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agro and Rural Industries operating in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the Central Government proposes to have any scheme regarding establishment of more Agro and Rural Industries in the State especially in Haridwar during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the amount allotted to such industries during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) 1794 agro and rural industries have been set up in the State of Uttaranchal under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) and (c) To promote agro and rural industries in the country including Haridwar, the Government has been implementing the REGP through the KVIC. Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish a village industry'

by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakh are entitled to margin money support of up to 25 per cent of the project cost. For projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money support is 25 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project for the general category of entrepreneurs. In the case of entrepreneurs from the categories like the weaker sections viz. the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Women, Physically Handicapped, Ex-servicemen, Minority Community, etc., the margin money given is at the rate of 30 per cent of the project cost up to Rs. 10 lakh while for projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money assistance is 30 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project.

(d) The details of the amounts released for implementing the REGP during 2003-04 and the amount allocated for the year 2004-05 in the State of Uttaranchal are as under.

Year	Amount allotted (Rs. in lakh)
2003-04	979-70*
2004-05	570.00

*Higher allotment was towards the settlement of pending claims of previous year.

Extradition Treaty with South Korea

29. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has recently signed an extradition treaty with South Korea;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any agreement has also been made in the defence sector; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes.

(b) The two countries signed an extradition treaty on October 5, 2004 at New Delhi during the visit of India of President of the Republic of Korea. The treaty will provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders.

(c) and (d) No agreement has been made in the defence sector.

Ayurvedic/Indian Medicinal System

30. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government proposes to promote Ayurvedic/Indian Medicinal System in the country;
- if so, the funds allocated for this purpose during the years 2002-2003 and 2004, year-wise;
- whether any separate authority has been created/is being created for promoting manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the break-up of schemes launched and the ongoing ones for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The very mandate of the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) is to promote and propagate the development of Indian Systems of Medicine which includes Ayurveda. The funds that were allocated originally for the Deptt. of AYUSH during the years 2002, 2003 & 2004 are as follows :-

	(Rs. in Crore)	
	Plan	Non-Plan
2002	150.00	50.86
2003	150.00	51.47
2004	181.00	52.76

(c) to (e) No separate authority is being created for promoting manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines. However, a public sector manufacturing unit i.e. Indian Medicine Pharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd., (IMPCL) under the Department of AYUSH has been engaged in commercial production of Ayurvedic and Unani drugs since June, 1983. The Central Government holds 51% share in the IMPCL with the remaining 49% belonging to the Government of Uttaranchal. This joint holding company produces a number of medicines which are mainly being supplied to Government hospitals and dispensaries including the CGHS.

The Central Government is also implementing a Scheme to provide incentives for creation of in-house quality control laboratories and infrastructure to comply with the GMP provisions. Manufacturers of ayurvedic drugs are given subsidy to the extent of 10% of their investment subject to the maximum of Rs. 3 lakhs under this Scheme.

Economic Package for Bihar

31. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has demanded an economic package of Rs. 40,000 crores from the Union Government after the creation of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the value of the economic package sanctioned by the Union Government so far alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount provided to Bihar so far under this package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) After bifurcation of the State, the Government of Bihar had submitted from time to time 116 projects worth Rs. 40,143 crore to the Union Government for approval.

(b) After holding wide-ranging consultations with the representatives of the State Government and the people's representatives of the State of Bihar, seven projects worth Rs. 2531.35 crore have been identified for implementation under the Special Bihar Plan component of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana with 100% grant assistance. The details are enclosed in the statement.

(c) Based on the progress of implementation of these projects, Rs. 621.1219 crore has been released so far.

Statement

List of Projects identified for implementation under the Special Bihar Plan component of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

Name of the scheme	Estimated cost (Rs. in Crore)
1. Million Shallow Tubewell Programme (Subsidy Component)	578.28
2. Strengthening of sub-transmission system	365.00
3. Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal	294.00
4. Development of State Highways	846.29
5. Development of Horticulture (Subsidy Component)	36.78
6. Integrated Watershed Development Programme	60.00
7. Integrated community-based Forest Management	351.00
Total	2531.35

[English]

Exporting Indian Farmers to African Countries

32. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the African Countries have sent proposals to take Indian farmers to their country to give a push to their ailing farm economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision proposed to be taken by the Government in the wake of the spate of suicides by farmers in AP due to the recurring drought condition there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) No African country has approached the Government of India so far. However, newspaper have published reports to this effect, which are being investigated.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Appropriate decision would be taken, if any country approaches the Government on this subject.

Spurious Drugs

33. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drugs valued at Rs. 20, 0000 crores are manufactured in India against import of drugs valued at Rs. 4000 crores;

(b) if so, whether big companies like Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries and Glaxo are reported to have undertaken corrupt practices even in the sale of life saving drugs after expiry date by relabelling and mixing vitamins;

(c) if so, whether the Government seized a lot of such spurious drugs in Delhi, Gujarat, Bombay and Maharashtra;

(d) whether Letroval/Letrozol, a Sun Pharma drug which is widely used in breast cancer and infertility beyond the norms of UFSD; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the government against such corrupt practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the feedback available from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

is now US \$ 4 billion industry in addition to over US \$ 3.1 billion in exports. So far as import of medicinal and pharmaceuticals products are concerned, Rs. 1701.46 crores, Rs. 2026.58 crores, Rs. 2865.20 crores and Rs. 2955.63 crores (Prov.) worth of medicinal and pharmaceutical products have been imported in the country during the period 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 respectively.

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules thereunder, the State Governments are empowered to regulate and monitor the quality of drugs moving in the market. Action against any complaints for possible manufacture or sale of spurious drugs including sale of life saving drugs after expiry dates is taken by State Govts. through their respective drugs control organisations. Details of the complaints with the drug control authorities of States/UTs are not maintained centrally. However Govt. of India has been taking various initiatives to ensure uniform and strict action to tackle the problem of spurious drugs. Some of such specific initiatives are as follows :

- (i) The issues concerning alleged sale of spurious drugs was taken up by Union Health Minister with State Health Ministers in the conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.
- (ii) Meeting of State Drug Controllers together with representatives of Pharma industry and trade organisations was arranged.
- (iii) Financial assistance is being provided to States for augmentation of drug testing facilities.
- (iv) Matter concerning sale of spurious drugs and initiatives to be taken up by State Governments were taken up by Union Health Minister with all Chief Minister in October, 2002.
- (v) A World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project on Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs has been launched with effect from October, 2003. This project aims at strengthening, inter-alia, the drug regulatory infrastructure in the country by augmenting the drug testing facilities by providing for equipments, civil works, staff and consumables and extensive training of drug regulatory/quality control officials and industry personnel. Annual drug testing capacity to be raised to 1,00,000 samples as against 36,000 to 38,000 samples.

- (vi) Special training programme for improving investigations and legal skills are organised for state officials.

(d) and (e) Letrozole had been approved for M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals as second line treatment of advanced breast cancer in women. Since, no formal approval was issued for its use as a fertility drug, the firm was issued a notice to explain their alleged promotion of Letrozole as a fertility drug. The firm was warned not to engage in any promotional activity, which leads to off-table use of anti-cancer drug for fertility enhancement. An advisory communication that Letrozole has not been approved as treatment for infertility has also been issued to all the Drug Controllers of States/UTs.

[Translation]

Scheme for Making the Coal Companies Profitable

34. SHRI SURAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal, profitable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of loss making PSUs, the amount of loss involved therein and reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any action has been taken to shut down these loss making PSUs;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any scheme to merge or disinvest these loss making units; and
- (g) 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) to (c) All subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) except Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are earning profit. The loss suffered by ECL and BCCL during the year 2003-04 is as under :

Name of the company	Profit (+)/Loss(-) (before tax and dividend) Rs. in crore
ECL	(-) 326.38
BCCL	(-) 569.85

The reasons for the losses of ECL and BCCL are given below :

- (i) Extensive mining in the past as shallow depth by private sector resulting in unscientific development of mines;
- (ii) Small size of mines;
- (iii) Coal seams of Raniganj are susceptible to spontaneous heating;
- (iv) Coal seams presently available are highly gassy and deep seated;
- (v) Multiple seam situations;
- (vi) Socio-politically sensitive area
- (vii) High rate of ccess in West Bengal
- (viii) Coal in BCCL is prone to spontaneous heating resulting in 70 uncontrollable fires;
- (ix) Difficult geo-mining conditions & presence of surface features;
- (x) Difficulty involved in opencast mining operations due to presence of habitation in the vicinity;
- (xi) Existence of old caved water logged in ovarian seam;
- (xii) Upward revision of salary of employees beyond the paying capacity of the company.

ECL falling sick, the company had to be referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). After several rounds of hearing BIFR vide its order dated 2nd November 2004 has sanctioned a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) of ECL under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act (SICA) for reviving and revamping the compnay. BCCL being sick, its management has prepared a Draft Revival plan for revival of BCCL. The revival packages involve restructuring the equity of the companies and other things on which the views of Ministry of Finance have been sought before the Central Government decides on the measures proposed in the DRS.

(d) to (g) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Telecommunication System in Rural Areas

35. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

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

(a) whether the Government at the time of giving licences to the telecom companies entrusted them with the task of establishing telecommunication system in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such villages and the time limit to complete the task along with the names of these companies;

(c) the target achieved by these companies upto September, 2004; and

(d) the time limit prescribed to complete the remaining target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) The six private basic telephone service Licensee, who were granted licences in 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in their respective service area. The details of number of villages to be provided with VPTs by these six private operators along with time limit and their achievement upto 31st October 2003 are enclosed as statement. The Government has recovered liquidated damages to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores from these six private basic telephone service operators for non-fulfillment of roll out obligations in terms of commencement of service as well as in provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and VPTs. Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime, these six private basic telephone service Licensee have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime in November 2003 and thereby the roll out obligations have changed to coverage of District Headquarters instead of provisioning of fixed number of DELs and VPTs.

Statement

VPT Status of Private Basic Service Operators

VPTs	Bharati Teletel Ltd. Madhya Pradesh	Tata Teleservices Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Reliance Telecom Gujarat	Shyam Teletelink Rajasthan	HFCL Infotel. Punjab	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Month of commencement of service	June 1998	March 1999	October 1998	May 2000	June 2000	Sept 2000	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. of VPTs Committed in first 3 years from effective date*	16500	9635	25760	8635	31834	5442***	97806
Cumulative No. of VPTs provided by 31.10.2003	611	1408	2643	4114	3010	879	12665

* These commitments were to be met by 30-9-1998 in case of AP, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30-9-99 in case of Maharashtra. For MP and Rajasthan the same were to be completed by 30-9-2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively.

** Figures are as reported by the licensees.

*** As all villages have been covered in Punjab by BSNL, the faulty MARRs are replaced by the private licensees.

[English]

International Convention Centre

36. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for International Convention Centre at Akkulam near Thiruvananthapuram is pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Government of Kerala will have to form a Special Purpose Vehicle and identify a Private partner for execution of the project relating to international Convention Centre at Akkulam near Thiruvananthapuram.

Subject to these conditions being met the project would be considered for assistance under Ministry of Tourism's scheme for Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

[Translation]

Streamlining Passport Issuance Procedure

37. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport offices in the country at present, state-wise;

(b) the average number of applications scrutinized in these offices per month;

(c) whether there is any delay in the issuing of passports;

(d) if so, steps proposed to ease the passport issuance procedure;

(e) whether there is a constant increase in the cost of passport; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to check the increase in cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) There are 30 passport offices in the country. A list showing their state-wise location is enclosed as statement.

(b) These passport offices scrutinize an average of approximately 2,86,000 applications per month.

(c) It has always been the endeavour of government to render efficient and timely service to the passport seeking public. However, delays take place in issuance of passports, largely due to an increase in demand for passports, delays in receipt of police verification reports and submission of incomplete information and documentation by the applicants.

(d) Several steps have been taken by government to streamline the passport issuance procedure. These include deploying additional staff from other passport offices, computerisation, decentralisation of submission of passport applications to district level, machine writing of passports and expediting police verification.

(e) and (f) The passport fee was last revised in April 2002. There is no proposal at present for increasing the passport fee.

Statement

State-wise Passport Offices in India

S.No.	State	Passport Office
1	2	3
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Surat
2.	Karnataka	Bangalore

1	2	3
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly Lucknow Ghaziabad
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
5.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
6.	West Bengal	Kolkata
7.	UT of Chandigarh	Chandigarh
8.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Tiruchirappalli
9.	Kerala	Cochin Kozhikode Trivandrum
10.	Delhi	Delhi
11.	Assam	Guwahati
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Visakhapatnam
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
14.	Punjab	Jalandhar
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu Srinagar
16.	Maharashtra	Mumbai Nagpur Pune Thane
17.	Goa	Panaji
18.	Bihar	Patna
19.	Jharkhand	Ranchi

[English]

**Violation of Interconnect Agreement
by Reliance Infocom**

38. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) whether the BSNL has incurred a huge loss following violation of NLD service Interconnect Agreement by unauthorized routing on the part of Reliance Infocom Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Government for overlooking the violation of aforesaid agreement by the BSNL authorities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) It was detected by BSNL that international telecommunication traffic was handed over at locations meant for traffic within the country by M/s. Reliance Infocom Ltd. (RIL). As per available information, BSNL has issued 512 notices to M/s RIL for making payment of Rs. 257 Crores as per provisions of the Interconnect agreement with M/s. RIL. M/s. RIL filed an appeal in Delhi High Court, which has issued an interim order for maintaining status quo for disconnection of Point of Interconnection (POI) and making a further payment of Rs. 40 crores to BSNL. M/s. RIL has made this payment of Rs. 40 crores making a total of approximately Rs. 100 Crores. BSNL has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the interim order of Delhi High Court for maintaining status quo for disconnection of POIs. Matter is sub-judice.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Charges of Cellular Telephone Operators

39. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) the amount charged by Cellular Telephone Operators for per call in the country;

(b) the manner in which these call charges are competitive in comparison to international current rates;

(c) whether the Government has set any ceiling for call charges before awarding licences 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) The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 provides flexibility to cellular telephone operators to fix tariffs. The operators are offering various tariff plans for their subscribers and these plans vary in terms of combination of monthly rentals, call charges & free call allowances etc. International comparison of tariff for telecom services and pulse rate of such services is rendered difficult and may not be realistic because of many tariff packages, varying exchange rates, differences in

purchasing power and tele-densities across countries. However, telecom tariff in India in general is considered to be on the lower side internationally.

(c) The existing licence under which the cellular operators are providing service does not set any ceiling for call charge.

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

[English]

Improvement in Quality of Road

40. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received representations for improvements in riding quality in NH 209 - Dindigul-Palani - Coimbatore - Bangalore Road; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The riding quality in the entire length of NH-209 has already been improved.

[Translation]

Complaints Regarding Rural Public Telephone Plan

41. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding rural public telephone plan in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints were received for not providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in uncovered villages of Rajasthan and regarding faulty MARR VPTs. Bharat Sanchar

Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already provided VPTs of its share in the Rajasthan Circle. The balance VPTs were to be provided by Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs).

(c) Telecom facilities to these recently allotted uncovered villages to BSNL on the basis of tender is scheduled to be provided over a span of three years i.e. by November, 2007 as per tender terms finalized by the office of Administrator of Universal Service Fund. It is planned to replace all MARR based VPTs in the Circle by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology and Land Line technology. 3899 MARR VPTs have already been replaced upto 31.10.2004 and all the balance MARR VPTs are planned to be replaced by June, 2006.

[English]

Cancellation of Medical Seats in Andhra Pradesh

42. SHRI S. P. Y. REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has recently cancelled 790 medical seats and 450 dental seats in various medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests from Andhra Pradesh Government to reconsider the decision of MCI in this regard; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Central Government has not cancelled any medical or dental seats in Andhra Pradesh. However, permission for admission of fresh batch of 100 students each at one private medical college and one private dental college in Andhra Pradesh during the academic year 2004-05 were not renewed as these colleges were lacking facilities as per the reports from the respective professional councils. In addition, one college, could not create the required facilities for renewal of permission for admission of 2nd batch of 150 students and on the request of the college admissions for the year 2004-05 were restricted to 100.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Dolphin Service of MTNL

43. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite decline in the quality of services of Mobile and Telephone companies of Public and Private sector in recent years, there has been continuous increase in number of consumers;

(b) whether the dolphin service of MTNL, Delhi is known for its poor service in the country;

(c) if so, whether the performance of the service parameter implementing authority-Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is also sloppy; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The performance monitoring reports continue to show increase in number of consumers availing mobile services offered by Public & Private Sector Companies.

(b) The performance of Dolphin MTNL evaluated by TRAI on the basis of performance report of quarter ending September 2004 reveals that it is meeting most of the laid down benchmarks except that of call success rate (CSR). CSR for MTNL Delhi during this period was 98.45% against the benchmark of more than 99%.

(c) and (d) After reviewing the quarterly performance report and subjective survey report, TRAI interact with the service providers to find the reasons for deficiency in critical parameters like Network congestion, Call success rate, Billing problems etc. The operators showing the short fall in these parameters are asked by TRAI to submit their action plan to improve the performance.

Mining Works undertaken by Public Sector Undertaking in other Countries

44. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted permission to the public sectors for undertaking mining in coal in other countries;

(b) if so, the name of the undertakings which have been given such permission; and

(c) the estimated income likely to be earned by the country therefrom?

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 the answer given to part (a) above.

[English]

N.H. To Lingapur

45. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is longstanding demand of the people of Tumkur District for connecting the National Highways to Lingapur in Tumkur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Composition of National Commission

46. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a National Commission to examine the problems being faced by the unorganized and informal sector;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of this Commission and their functions; and

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission has a full time Chairman in the rank of Cabinet Minister, two full time Members and a Member Secretary in the rank of Secretary to the government of India and two part time members. The Commission will also have an 11 members Advisory Board.

The Commission will, inter-alia, review the status of unorganized/informal sector, identify constraints faced by these enterprises; suggest the legal and policy environment that should govern the sector for growth; employment, exports and promotion; examine the existing programmes relating to employment generation in the sector and suggest improvement for their redesign; identify innovative legal and financing instruments to promote growth of the sector; review

the existing arrangements for estimating employment and unemployment in the sector and suggest elements of employment strategy focusing on the informal sector; review Indian Labour Laws consistent with the labour rights, and with the requirements of expanding growth of industry and services, particularly in the informal sector and improving productivity and competitiveness and review the social security system available for labour and make recommendations for expanding their coverage.

(c) The term of the Commission is for a period of one year. The Commission will submit periodic reports to the Government.

Indian Contribution to UNO

47. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution being paid by India to UNO annually during the last five years;

(b) the basis of fixation of this contribution;

(c) whether per capita income loans and debt on the country and poverty condition is taken into consideration while fixing it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to get the contributions reduced in view of the financial conditions of the people and the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Details regarding India's contribution to the U.N. Regular Budget during the last five years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Contributions from Member States are determined as per a scale of assessment approved by the General Assembly on the basis of advice from the Committee on Contributions. The scale is based on the capacity of the Member States to pay, which is determined by considering their relative shares of total gross national product, adjusted to take into account a number of factors, including their per capital incomes. Based on this scale, currently (2004), India's contribution constitutes 0.421% of the U.N. regular budget. The Committee of Contributions completely reviews the scale of assessments every three years, on the basis of the latest national income statistics, to ensure that assessments are fair and accurate. These contributions are mandatory on all U.N. Member States, since they are a part of the Charter obligations.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

India's contribution to United Nations Regular Budget

Year	Contribution
2004	Rs. 27,98,68,571/- (US\$ 61,22,699)
2003	Rs. 22,12,18,692/- (US\$ 46,03,927)
2002	Rs. 18,59,79,902/- (US\$ 38,64,919)
2001	Rs. 16,03,14,1998/- (US\$ 34, 13,136)
2000	Rs. 13,71,49,289/- (US\$ 31,39,146)

[English]

Dolphin/Garuda Service

48. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscribers applying for connections in November, 2004 for "Dolphin" at various Sanchar Haats of MTNL Delhi have to wait for their phones becoming operational till one week after issuance of OB;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government against the engineers causing delay in making these connections operational and the details of steps being taken to make connection of "Dolphin" and "Garuda" operational from the date of application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, the Dolphin connections are generally being activated within 24 hours of application.

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

(c) No action is required against any official as there is no delay as in (a) above. Similarly in case of Garuda service, pre-activated handsets are delivered to the customers, which can be made operational immediately.

[English]

Working of Science Institutes

49. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the science institutes in the country are run badly;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether the millions spent on the research projects have not achieved the desired results; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir. Money invested in research projects can not be measured in rupee terms. There have been areas where small investments have led to substantial results. There have been areas of research where large investments of money have not yielded tangible benefits.
- (d) Does not arise.

Payment of Pay & Allowances to Employees

50. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has paid full pay and allowances to their employees on reinstatement without obtaining non-employment certificates from them as is required under the rules; and
- (b) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the authorities responsible for authorizing payment of back wages without obtaining non-employment certificate apart from recovery thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar has informed that in recent times, payment without obtaining non-employment certificate has been made in one case only, consequent upon specific Court orders for payment and after protracted litigation.

Extension of Services

51. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL :

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of recommendations received by

the Government from various Ministries/Departments of Government of India for extension of services of retiring officers during the last six months;

- (b) the details of cases where the requests were acceded to during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has now taken a policy decision not to allow extensions after superannuation; and

- (d) if so, the details and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mobile Service in Jharkhand

52. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of districts and blocks particularly in Jharkhand connected with BSNL mobile service and the number of districts and blocks deprived of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd' mobile service;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to expand mobile service in Jharkhand in the current financial year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of districts/blocks covered/uncovered with BSNL mobile service in Jharkhand are given as under :-

	Total Nos.	Covered with Mobile Service	Uncovered with Mobile Service
Districts	22	22	Nil
Blocks	211	92	119

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. BSNL has already expanded the capacity in the state by additional 45,700 lines during this financial year and has planned further expansion by 2,50,000 lines in the year 2005.

Development of Telecommunication Market

53. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is one of the most developing Telecommunication market in the world;
- (b) if so, whether there is any possibility to include cellular market of India in the larger group of Asia-Pacific market after China and Japan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being contemplated to improve the Telecommunication sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. India is among the fast growing markets in the world in the Telecom Sector.

(b) and (c) There is possibility of a greater role if manufacture of Telecom equipment is stepped up.

(d) Steps are being taken to improve the following aspects of the telecommunication sector in the country:-

- (i) Improving rural connectivity
- (ii) Increased penetration of Internet and Broadband
- (iii) Ensuring provision of adequate spectrum to operators.

[English]

Downsizing Coir Board

54. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to downsize the Coir-Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the present status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) (i) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in its Report No. 4 dated 20th September, 2000, had recommended that (a) Showrooms-cum-Sales Depots of the Coir Board should be progressively handed over, on agency or commission basis, to trading houses, with the exception of a few showrooms in metropolitan towns, which might be retained for demonstration purposes; and (b) the Hindustan Coir Factory should also be privatized or handed over to a Cooperative. Recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission were accepted "in principle" by the Government.

(ii) Later, the Administrative Staff College of India, (ASCI), Hyderabad, which, was entrusted with a study on "The Role, Objectives and Structure of the Coir Board, in line with the recommendations of the ERC", has also endorsed the said recommendations of the ERC.

(iii) With a view to enabling the Government to take a final decision on the recommendations of the ERC, the matter was considered in a meeting of the Coir Board. The recommendations of the Coir Board were last considered in the Ministry on 2nd September, 2004 and the Coir Board was requested to furnish an Action Taken Report thereon. This is awaited from the Coir Board.

The Action Taken Report would be considered and final decisions would be taken by the Government after consulting various stakeholders in the process.

Liberalising Visa Norms for Pak Nationals

55. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has liberalised its visa regime for Pakistani nationals especially accredited journalists, academics, elderly visitors and medicos accompanying patients for treatment at reputed hospitals;
- (b) if so, the number of Pak nationals who visited India under these categories so far;
- (c) whether the Pak Government has also extended similar visa relaxation for Indian citizens; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) In order to facilitate people - to - people contact, and mindful of humanitarian considerations, the Government had on September 18, 2004 announced unilateral relaxation of the grant of visas to the Pakistani nationals, including accredited journalists with minimum 3 years accreditation with national or international media of repute; academicians and professors, Vice Chancellors and those coming on the invitation of reputed/ eminent universities and institutions; medical doctors; if accompanying patients for treatment at leading/reputed hospitals in India; all Pakistan nationals above the age of 65; and permission to Pakistani nationals to visit upto twelve places during each visit.

(b) The relaxations are being implemented appropriately. The High Commission of India in Islamabad has been issuing about 6,000 – 7,000 visas per month, including to academicians, journalists, doctors, and other Pakistani nationals to visit India.

(c) and (d) The Government of Pakistan has so far not reciprocated the visa liberalization measures announced by India on September 18, 2004.

Monitoring of International Calls

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

(a) whether the DoT has asked MTNL to monitor international calls from India to Nepal through the PSUs subsidiary in the Himalaya Kingdom since ILD calls were being routed as local calls as reported in the "Times of India" dated November 16, 2004;

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

(c) whether the ILD operators in connivance with the MTNL/BSNL are causing financial losses to the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has come to the notice of the government that illegal activity of International Long Distance (ILD) call bypass from India to Nepal by some clandestine operators/ unauthorised persons in Nepal is going on. So Department of Telecom. (DoT) has taken up the matter with Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) to monitor these illegal calls through the MTNL's subsidiary company in Nepal namely M/s. United Telecom Ltd. (UTL), by generating decoy calls from India and identifying such illegal setups in Nepal. M/s. UTL have already taken up the matter with Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and Nepal Telecom Authorities.

(c) No such information has come to the notice of Government.

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

Decline in Female Population

57. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest census figures have shown decline in female population compared to male in the country especially in Punjab; Haryana and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decline in the female population is due to pre-diagnosis and destroying of female foetus and its abortion being carried out despite the enactment of law to prevent such criminal acts; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken for strict enforcement of law thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per latest figures of Census 2001, females per 1000 male population (sex ratio) has improved from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001 at national level. However, it has shown a decline in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The situation is worse in case of child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years where it has declined both at national level and in these states.

(b) State wise figures of sex ratio and child sex ratio in the age group (0-6) years in Census 2001 as compared to the figures of Census 1991 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide and male bias in enumeration of population are some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of child sex-ratio.

In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, which is one of the main reasons for fall in sex ratio adverse to female population, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was brought in to operation from 1.1.1996. The said Act since been amended to make it more stringent. The implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, district as well as sub-district levels. The States/UTs have

been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act and Rules and to effectively implement the same in letters and spirit.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that more legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice.

Recently, the Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.

Statement

State/UT wise Sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 and 2001

India and State/ Union territory*/District	Sex Ratio		Child Sex Ratio	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA	927	933	945	927
Jammu and Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	875	798
Chandigarh*	790	777	899	845
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi*	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966

1	2	3	4	5
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhattisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883
Daman and Diu*	969	710	958	926
Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	952	812	1013	979
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep*	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1,036	1,058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942
Pondicherry*	979	1,001	963	967
Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	818	846	973	957

Source : Census 1991 & 2001, O/O Registrar General of India

*Union Territory

Sex Ratio means females per 1000 male population.

Child Sex Ratio means girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0-6 years.

CBI Probe on Irregularities In Purchase of Drugs

58. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :

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

(a) whether the CBI had probed into the irregularities committed in the purchase of drugs for supply to the CGHS dispensaries in 1998; and

(b) if so, the findings of the probe and the action taken, if any, against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) CBI had investigated 2 cases in Delhi

and one case in Bhubaneswar relating to the irregularities committed in the purchase of drugs for supply to the CGHS dispensaries in 1998.

As per the findings, the medicines have been supplied at inflated rates to some CGHS dispensaries by two local chemists in Delhi and one in Bhubaneswar. It was alleged that some doctors and pharmacists of the concerned CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi and Bhubaneswar had colluded with the concerned chemists in the matter of local purchase of medicines by inflating the Maximum Retail Price of the supplied medicines. Following the recommendations of CBI and in consultation with CVC, departmental proceedings for major penalty have been initiated against one doctor and five Pharmacists and for minor penalty against six other Pharmacists. Prosecution proceedings have also been initiated by the CBI against one Pharmacist and two local chemists of Delhi. The concerned local chemists have also been blacklisted.

[Translation]

Promotion of CBI Officers

59. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received suggestions/recommendations from Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Pension, Personnel and Public Grievances regarding recruitment/promotion of officers within C.B.I. instead of recruiting officers from outside;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions/recommendations in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any action so far to implement the suggestions/recommendations received from the Standing Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Production Capacity of Copper, Lead and Zinc Ingots

60. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of copper, lead and zinc ingots in the country;

(b) whether the Government is taking steps to promote production of these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):
(a) The total production capacity of primary Copper, Lead and Zinc ingots in the country is 4,62,500, 1,99,000 and 67,000 TPA respectively.

(b) and (c) Except Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), which is a Central Public Sector Undertaking producing primary copper, all other primary producers of copper, lead and zinc are under private control. In so far as HCL is concerned, the Government has been providing all possible support, which includes grant for replacement and renewal

of plant and machinery, for all utilization of its production capacity.

Creation of New Jobs

61. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a blue print for creation of new jobs every year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The Approach to the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of Tenth Five Year Plan has reiterated the objective of the Plan that the employment growth should exceed growth of labour force to reduce the backlog of unemployment. In order to achieve this objective, the strategies advocated include:

- Promotion of public investment in rural areas
- Reforms in the financial sector for higher investment in the Small and Medium Enterprises
- Unleashing the potential of large-scale employment creation in the Construction sector, especially in urban areas
- Improvements in infrastructure for expansion in private investment
- Support to services industry, including software and all IT enabled services, trade, distribution, transport, telecommunication, finance and tourism
- Greater focus on agro-processing and rural services

Also, a National Food for Work Programme has been launched on 14.11.2004 in 153 backward districts with a view to provide an employment assurance of at least 100 days per family in these areas.

[Translation]

Licences to Private Hospitals and Clinics and Nursing Homes

62. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL :
SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

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

(a) whether the number of private hospitals, clinics and Nursing Homes is increasing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing criteria adopted for granting licence to such clinics, Nursing Homes and Hospitals is adequate;

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to introduce a Bill for registration scheme of Private Hospitals, Clinics and Nursing Homes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether these Hospitals, Clinics and Nursing Homes are free to charge their fee from the patients arbitrarily;

(g) whether the Government intends to enact any law prescribing a fee structure for these Hospitals, Clinics and Nursing Homes; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (h) Health being a State subject under the Constitution India, it is the responsibility of State Governments to ensure compliance of the health standards by the various hospitals, clinics, nursing homes etc. in the State. However, the Government of India is in the process of formulating a Bill prescribing minimum standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments.

Kidnapping on Indian Citizens Abroad

63. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the kidnapping of Indian citizens in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of Indians so abducted abroad since 2003-04 till date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to initiate talks with the concerned authorities to secure the release of abducted persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. The Government is aware of one recent case of kidnapping of an Indian national abroad, Shri Harish Hitange.

(c) The matter has been immediately and regularly taken up with the Polish authorities concerned, including at Ministers level, to secure the release of Shri Hitange. The Indian Embassy is also in touch with the family of Shri Hitange and Indian Association in Warsaw for coordinating action.

[English]

Antiquated Laws

64. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI is crippled by antiquated laws as reported in the *Times of India* dated November 14, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the CBI is facing many hurdles due to antiquated laws as a result of which many cases are pending since the last several decades; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the further steps being taken by the Government to revise the antiquated laws to punish the culprits;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Allocation for NH-52

65. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approved outlay for improvement of National Highway by the Border Roads Organization during 10th Plan was Rs. 950 crores against projected outlay of Rs. 1863 crores;

(b) if so, the measures taken to fill the gap;

(c) whether the NH-52 was entrusted to BRO after finalization of 10th Plan;

(d) if so, the additional allocation approved for NH-52 to ensure minimum connectivity because of its deplorable condition;

(e) whether improvement of NH-52 suffered due to inadequate allocation of fund as well as change of executing agency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS : (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Approved outlay for improvement of National Highways with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) during 10th Plan is Rs. 950 crores against projected requirement of funds of Rs. 1640.03 crores by BRO. The allocation is made keeping in view of overall availability of resources and the inter se priority of works.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Funds for the improvement of all the National Highways including NH-52 entrusted to BRO are allocated keeping in view the overall availability of funds. The improvement works are taken up in phases by the BRO within available resources keeping in view the inter se priority of works. BRO have been maintaining NH-52 in a traffic worthy condition despite heavy monsoon of 2004. The change of the executing agency from the State Government to BRO has not affected its improvement.

[Translation]

Health Services and Paediatric Hospitals in MP

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Japan to establish basic health services and paediatric hospital in Gwalior, Shivpuri and Guna districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by when it will be cleared; and

(e) the time by when the financial assistance will be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) A revised proposal of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh with an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crores for upgradation of Mother and Child Hospital and Basic Health Services in Gwalior, Shivpuri and Guna districts of Madhya Pradesh has been submitted to the government of Japan through the Department of Economic Affairs in August, 2004. Presently, the proposal is under consideration of the Government of Japan.

[English]

PCO Business by Reliance

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of entering in a big way into the PCO business (Public Call Office) by the Reliance Infocomm competing with the BSNL and MTNL market in PCO segment;

(b) whether the Government is also aware that to

push its business Reliance Infocomm is offering incentives and high percentage of commission to the existing PCO operators for shifting to Reliance infocomm; and

(c) if so, the measures or strategy contemplated by the Government to meet the challenge of capturing the PCO segment in the country by Reliance and other operators in this segment and to expand its own PCO services in the country both in the urban and rural areas?

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

(c) The measures contemplated by BSNL to meet the challenge are :-

(i) Aggressive marketing

(ii) Rationalization of tariff from time to time subject to financial viability

(iii) Better customer care

(iv) Procedure simplification and quick provision on registration

The measures contemplating by MTNL to meet the challenge are :-

(i) Commission to PCO franchisees has been enhanced.

(ii) PCO holders have been appointed as DSAs (Direct Selling Agents) for sale of various services on commission basis.

(iii) Procedure for allotment of STD/ISD/ Local PCOs has been simplified.

(iv) Mobile PCOs on commission basis have been introduced.

[Translation]

Decline in use of Postal Services

68. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of post cards, Inlands and envelopes for sending messages by people has drastically dropped during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government has suffered loss due to this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to counter the above situation?

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

[English]

Upgradation of Blood Banks

69. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been undertaken to upgrade blood banks in all the districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including specific areas envisaged to be upgraded;

(c) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose along with the amount allocated and expenses incurred so far;

(d) the details of blood banks where upgradation has been implemented fully or partly, so far state - wise; and

(e) the mechanism, if any, created for monitoring the upkeep and strict adherence to ethical norms in the blood banks especially in the light of large growth of incidents of fatal infections namely, AIDS, HIV positive, Hepatitis-B etc. in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) In order to provide safe and quality blood to the citizens in the country, the Government has decided to modernize at least 1 blood bank in each district of the country in National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II. As per scheme of modernization of blood banks, one time grant is admissible for purchase of equipments for District level Blood Banks to the extent of Rupees 1.25 lakhs. Apart from this, an annual grant of Rupees 2.03 lakhs is also admissible for purchase of consumables and salary of one technician. In addition to these the following financial support is also given to blood banks (i) Major Blood Banks (one time grant of Rs. 3.19 lakhs and annual grant of Rs. 3.78 lakhs) (ii) Blood Component separation Unit (one time grant of Rs. 27.69 lakhs and annual grant of Rs. 14.00 lakhs) and (iii) Zonal Blood Testing Centre (Annual grant of Rs. 1.86 lakhs). The details of blood banks, which have been modernized in states and funds earmarked for this purpose during 2004-2005 is given in a statement enclosed.

(e) The functioning of blood banks is regulated by Drugs Controller General (India) and State Drugs Authorities under Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. Only those blood banks adhering to all provisions of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules which includes testing for all these markers namely HIV, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), Syphilis and Malaria are granted licenses. The licenses of the blood banks are renewed subject to periodic inspection and after due verification of the availability of the requisite infrastructure with the blood banks as prescribed in Drug and Cosmetic Rules.

Statement

State wise List of Blood Banks Modernised by NACO

Ser. No.	State	Distt. Level Blood Banks	Major Blood Banks	Zonal Blood Testing Centre	Blood Component Separation Units	Amount during 2004-05 (Rs. in lacs)	Funds utilised during 2003-04 (Rs. in lacs) approx
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	1	18.84	24.87
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	21	14	4	229	229
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	1	1	0	33.28	23.28
4.	Assam	23	1	2	1	86.11	72.96
5.	Bihar	37	4	3	1	113	159.14
6.	Jharkhand	16	3	1	2	40	8.12
7.	Chandigarh	0	2	0	1	21.56	28.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	0	0	0	4.06	4.06
9.	Daman and Diu	1	0	0	0	2.03	6.09
10.	Delhi	0	6	6	2	53.62	57.7
11.	Goa	1	1	2	1	22.58	25.75
12.	Gujarat	36	8	5	4	164.12	181.73
13.	Haryana	17	2	2	1	63.09	81.95
14.	Himachal Pradesh	5	3	1	1	36.57	53.68
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	7	2	3	84.23	88.61
16.	Karnataka	40	10	9	5	184	215.07
17.	Kerala	21	11	5	6	173.01	106
18.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	2.03	2.03
19.	Madhya Pradesh	44	2	3	5	148	228.01
20.	Chhattisgarh	10	1	2	1	39.94	31.25
21.	Maharashtra	35	10	8	7	214.59	228
22.	Manipur	7	2	1	1	36.85	38.88
23.	Meghalaya	2	0	1	1	15.92	15.92
24.	Mizoram	4	1	0	1	25.9	18.51
25.	Nagaland	8	1	3	0	23.26	21.1
26.	Orissa	43	6	0	1	120.7	132.07
27.	Pondicherry	0	3	0	1	23	31.62
28.	Punjab	24	6	3	2	102.04	98.23
29.	Rajasthan	32	6	6	2	93.88	100.18
30.	Sikkim	1	1	1	0	8.92	8.92
31.	Tamil Nadu	56	16	4	4	233.4	280
32.	Tripura	3	2	0	1	33.46	33.46
33.	Uttar Pradesh	45	19	12	5	246.01	285.68
34.	Uttaranchal	10	2	2	0	40.02	56.04
35.	West Bengal	59	15	9	5	256	256
36.	Ahmedabad MC	4	2	1	2	44.46	50.57
37.	Chennai MC	6	8	6	2	79.24	86.62
38.	Mumbai MC	0	15	8	2	94.9	102.89
Total		655	198	123	76	3211.62	3472.44

[Translation]

Launching of Satellite on Education

70. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has launched its first satellite devoted to education recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the results and benefits of the satellite so launched?

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

(b) The "EDUSAT" Satellite was launched on 20th September 2004. The satellite carries five Ku-band high power regional transponders, one Kuband national transponder and six extended-C band national beam transponders.

(c) EDUSAT is dedicated exclusively for educational services. It is specially configured to meet the growing demand for an interactive satellite based distance education system for the country through audio-visual medium. There has been considerable interest from educational institutions throughout the country regarding utilisation of the facilities provided by EDUSAT. ISRO has taken up several initiatives on a pilot basis to ensure utilisation of EDUSAT. Three Pilot schemes have been initiated in partnership with Visveswaralal Technical University, Belgaum, Karnataka; Yeshvantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, Maharashtra and Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. All the stakeholders are being consulted in the field of primary, secondary and higher education and a conference of Vice Chancellors has also been conducted to realise the full potential of EDUSAT.

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojna

71. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has renamed "Pradhan Mantir Bharat Jodo Pariyojna" as National Highway Development Phase - III;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch the said project only in some States;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is preparing special package in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Pradhan Mantir Bharat Jodo Pariyojana" has been renamed as National Highways Deveopment Project (NHDP) Phase-III. The name has been changed considering the fact that the project will be implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and will be an extension of NHDP Phase-I and II.

(c) No, Sir. NHDP Phase - III covers 28 States and 2 Unions territories.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The project is not yet approved by the Government. The question of delay in implementation does not arise.

[English]

Submission of Account Reports by BSNL

72. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

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

- (a) whether TRAI has directed BSNL to submit reports of accounts 2003-2004 of all the circles;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the earlier pattern of submission of accounts by BSNL to TRAI;
- (d) whether as directed by TRAI, BSNL has since submitted its reports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) TRAI has issued a direction to BSNL for submission of accounting separation reports on separated accounts for each Circle product-wise for 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) BSNL has been submitting the annual audited accounts as and when desired by TRAI and for the year 2003-2004 the audited accounts have been submitted to TRAI already. Regarding submission of reports on accounting separation, the due date is 31st December, 2004.

(e) Through BSNL is trying its best to adhere to the time limit set by TRAI, it has approached TRAI to extend the time in view of immense difficulties faced by BSNL in carrying out further transformation of its accounts to conform to TRAI guidelines.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals from Haryana Government

73. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Government of Haryana viz. relating to widening of Faridabad section of Agra highways, construction of a flyover on Badarpur Border and construction of a Yamuna Flyover between Majhwali and Dankaur to connect Faridabad with Greater Noida;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government on the said proposals;

(c) the reasons for delay in taking any action so far on the above said proposals; and

(d) the time by when the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Detailed Project Report for construction of a flyover at Badarpur Border on NH-2 has been got prepared by National Highways Authority of India (NHA). No proposal from the Government of Haryana has, however, been received relating to widening of Faridabad section of Agra Highway and construction of Yamuna flyover between Majhwali and Dankaur to connect Faridabad with Greater NOIDA.

[English]

Encouraging SSI Units

74. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after purchasing refractory bricks worth more than Rs. 3 crores from various small scale industries, the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd., has deliberately rejected the same in favour of similar bricks from China;

(b) if so, whether these small scale industries are now on the verge of closure because of heavy financial crisis due to such action of BALCO;

(c) whether the policy of Union Government is to encourage SSI Units in all sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government is taking to ensure that BALCO does not deviate from the established Government policy of encouraging SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from BALCO in the matter through the Ministry of Mines, BALCO did place orders for supply of insulating bricks on three units in Rajasthan. On putting the bricks to use, it was found that they were not as per the specifications contained in the contract and the use thereof would have seriously affected performance. The company, therefore, rejected the bricks (due to their not being as per specifications) and called upon the suppliers to pay the amount due to the company as a result of rejection of the bricks. The rejection of the defective bricks supplied and the claim of the company are reported to be within the terms of the contract with the suppliers. The above mentioned suppliers did not replace the defective bricks and hence the Company imported the bricks from China, which met the technical specifications.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of SSI has written to all the Central Government Ministries, including the Ministry of Mines which is concerned with the affairs of BALCO, to ensure that the Ministries and the Public Sector Undertakings under their administrative jurisdiction adhere to the Central Government's Price and Purchase Preference Policies for the SSI Sector.

Illegal Exchange in Delhi

75. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether the department of Telecom has unearthed an illegal exchange in Delhi in the month of October, 2004;

(b) if so, its modus operandi thereof and the loss incurred on account thereof to DoT; and

(c) the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. One at Palam Village and other at East Patel Nagar, Delhi.

(b) The modus operandi in both the cases unearthed in the month of October, 2004 is that the offender has setup an illegal exchange using high-tech equipment and this setup was receiving incoming international call via Internet and was further distributing these calls using Local Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN)/Mobile/Wireles in Local Loop (WLL) connectivity. Reliance and Airtel connections and Internet Leased Lines (ILL) of M/s Primenet Global and M/s. Spectranet has been found used in these steps. National loss occurred due to these two setups is Rs. 45,75,280/-.

(c) One person at both the premises has been arrested after the raid and all the equipment have been seized in both the cases.

[Translation]

Ayurvedic Medicines In Dispensaries

76. SHR MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines in various Ayurvedic Aushdhalayas and dispensaries in the country are not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to ensure the availability of medicines therein; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Information regarding availability of medicines in various Ayurvedic Aushdhalayas and dispensaries except these under the Central Government is not maintained by the Central Government. "Public Health hospitals and dispensaires" being a State subject vide Entry No. 6 of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with their Ayurvedic Aushdhalayas and dispensaries, appropriately. As regards the Ayurvedic dispensaries under the Central Government/CGHS, medicines are available, by and large.

(b) and (c) In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation for supply of essential drugs to the dispensaries situated in the rural and backward areas. The Scheme provides for financial assistance for supply of essential drugs @ Rs. 25,000 per annum, per dispensary situated in the rural and backward areas.

[English]

Waiting List in West Bengal

77. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for new telephone connection in Basirhat, West Bengal;

(b) whether some applicatons are waiting for over two years for a new connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) As on 31.10.2004, the waiting list of Basirhat, West Bengal Telephone Exchange is 78.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The cable laying is in progress. Further, WLL Cordec System is also under installation. It is expected that most of the pending waiting list shall be cleared by 31.3.2005.

Direct Telecom Link between India and Myanmar

78. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new direct Telecommunication (microwave) link between India and Myanmar has been inaugurated; and

(b) if so, by when the direct links are likely to be established and its estimated cost and other details thereof?

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.

Malta Boat Tragedy Probe Mission

79. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Malta Board Tragedy Probe Mission met the Prime Minister recently and submitted a memorandum;

(b) if so, the details of the said Memorandum and the demands made therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes.

(b) The memorandum requested Government's assistance for a comprehensive enquiry into the mishap; retrieval of mortal remains of the victims from the sea-bed and a befitting memorial for them; impleadment of the Government as a party in ongoing court cases in Italy, Greece, Malta and India; suitable compensation to the bereaved families; exemplary punishment to the international human traffickers and their local henchmen involved in this case; release of a list of deceased young men and their Death Certificates by the State Governments.

(c) A statement giving present position on afore mentioned points is enclosed.

Statement

Comprehensive enquiry into the incident

The case is at present sub-judice in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi.

Retrieval of mortal remains from sea-bed

Given the long period the remains have been in the ocean, identification of the bodies is most unlikely. Even the nationality, ethnicity or religion of the victims may not be clearly determinable.

Impleadment of the Central Government as a party to the case

The impleadment of the Central Government as a party in the ongoing court cases in Italy, Greece and Malta is not desirable in view of the fact that the victims were engaged in the unlawful act of illegal immigration. However, there is a civil Writ Petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh (CWP No. 10666 of 1998 by Shri Balwant Singh Khera and others vs. Union of India and others). The Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, State of Punjab and CBI have been impleaded as co-respondents in this case. The Ministry of Labour has also sought permission of the Court to be impleaded as respondent No. 5 in the Writ Petition.

Compensation to the bereaved families

It will be appreciated that it was primarily a case of illegal immigration in which the victims were traveling without proper travel documents. Hence no compensation is payable in this case either by the Central or the State Government. However, keeping in view the humanitarian aspect of the

case, the Punjab Government has made an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000/- to the families of each of 79 victims, the details of which were provided by the survivors of the tragedy.

Exemplary punishment for the guilty

The Central Bureau of Investigation has already completed the investigation of the case and has field charge sheets against 24 travel agents and 2 officials of the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office for their involvement in this case. At present, the case is sub-judice in the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi. Award of adequate punishment to the guilty is within the jurisdiction of the court.

Issue of Death Certificates

The Government of Punjab will have to issue a list of victims and their Death Certificates after completing the necessary legal formalities.

[Translation]

Complying with Health Standards

80. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many hospitals in the country are not complying with the Health standards;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take action to ensure their compliance; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health being a state under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government of lay down health standards and to ensure compliance thereof in their States. However, the Government of India is in the process of formulating a Bill prescribing minimum standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments.

[English]

US Assistance to COMBAT Terrorism

81. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has offered help in combating terrorism in the North-East;

(b) if so, whether any written request has been received by the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes.

(b) The offer of assistance was received by Ministry of Home Affairs in the form of a letter dated October 04, 2004 written by Ambassador of USA.

(c) Co-operative efforts in the field of counter-terrorism would be discussed within the existing framework of cooperation for such matters.

[Translation]

Patents

82. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether patents have been obtained in respect of Scientific and Technological inventions at national and international levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government is getting the help from individuals and small organizations for obtaining patents?

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

(b) (i) Patents have been granted by the Indian Patent Office to Indian applicants and the Information is given below :-

Year	No. of patents sealed
1999-2000	557
2000-2001	399
2001-2002	654
2002-2003	494

(ii) Indian scientists/technologists/institutions have also been increasingly filing patents in other countries. For example, according to the official website of the US Patents and Trademark Office, patents granted to Indian applicants by this office have been on the increase since 1999, the number has grown from 73 in 1999 to 237 in 2003.

(c) Government have been creating awareness about patents among individual scientists, technologists, teachers etc. and universities, industries, including small

scale industries for many years so that they could take steps to protect their inventions by obtaining patents. Science departments have also established Patent Facilitating Centres to enable scientists to file patents in India and abroad.

[English]

Fitness Certificate for Private Vehicles

83. SHRI K. S. RAO :
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

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

(a) whether his Ministry had circulated a document among State Governments seeking suggestions on fitness certificates for private vehicles;

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

(c) the response of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the scheme will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Two Task Forces were set up by the Ministry in June, 2003 regarding Inspection and Maintenance System for motor vehicles, which included representatives of a number of State Governments. The report of Task Forces inter-alia included suggestions relating to Fitness Certification System for private vehicle also. The Report was circulated to the States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the month of September, 2004.

(c) and (d) In a meeting of the above States held on 19.10.2004, there was an uniformity of opinion that in the first instance it would be feasible and practicable to strengthen the existing Inspection and Maintenance System for the transport vehicles. Only after the same has been streamlined, the issue of coverage of private vehicles could be considered. As such, it is not possible to prescribe any time frame in the matter.

ATM Facility in Post Offices

84. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide ATM facility in the post office savings bank account;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) The proposal for providing ATM facility to post office savings bank account holders is in conceptual stage only and no details have yet been finalised.

Policy of Microsoft

85. SHRI S. P. Y. REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Microsoft sells stripped down versions of WINDOWS XP in Thailand at very low prices;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the Government has any plans to ask the MICROSOFT to follow similar practice here; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of MICROSOFT in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Microsoft has unveiled XP Starter Edition in Thailand. Windows XP Starter Edition is designed to offer affordability and easy-to-use entry level points to the Windows family products, tailored to local country, in local languages, and is compatible with wide range of Windows-based applications and devices.

(c) and (d) The Microsoft Windows XP Starter Edition, has already been unveiled in Delhi in September, 2004. XP Starter Edition for India includes a Hindi interface, and is scheduled for an early 2005 launch. The features of the XP Starter Edition are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Features of Windows XP Starter Edition include :

- **Localized and tailored support** : Windows XP Starter Edition features a redesignated help system called My Support, which includes a built-in, detailed Getting Started Guide. In addition, Windows XP Starter Edition

comes with a supplemental CD that contains local language instructional videos designed specifically for first time PC users.

- **Localized customizaton** : With Windows XP Starter Edition, users can choose from country-specific wallpapers and screensavers with familiar landscapes, flags and geography-specific traditional design.
- **Preconfigured settings** : Windows XP Starter Edition will help reduce confusion regarding setup options for entry-level users by preconfiguring advanced settings and enabling the Windows Firewall by default.
- **Simplified task management** : With Windows XP Starter Edition, first-time home users can have up to three programs and three windows per program running concurrently. Further simplification of operating system includes the display resolution set to 800×600 maximum and no support for PC-to-PC home networking, sharing printers across a network or more advanced features such as the ability to establish multiple user accounts on a single PC.
- **Windows XP Starter Edition System requirements**: Desktop with a Celeron, Duron, Geode, Sempron or similar processors, 233 MHz processor clock speed required and 300 MHz or higher recommended. Supports upto 128MB RAM and Hard disk space of maximum of 40 GB, and supports Super VGA 800×600 resolution VGA adapter and monitor.

Telephone Exchanges In Jammu and Kashmir

86. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the telephone exchanges modernized in Baramulla and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years till date;
 (b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during 2004-05 in the State particularly in the Baramulla and Kupwara districts;
 (c) whether the telephones remain out of order in these districts;
 (d) if so, the reasons therefore; and
 (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The details of telephone exchanges modernized in Baramulla and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years till date are as under :-

Year	Baramulla District	Kupwara District
2001-02	---	Trehgam
2002-03	Sogam	Kupwara
2003-04	---	---
2004-05 (up to 31-10-04)	Gulmarg, Bomai, Singhpora, Sumbal, Rohama	Trehgam

(b) 14 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened during 2004-05 in J & K Telecom Circle.

No new telephone exchange is proposed to be opened during 2004-05 in Baramulla and Kupwara Districts.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Evacuation of Unauthorised Tenants

87. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has built staff quarters for the welfare of their staff;

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

(c) whether 20 per cent of P & T quarters are occupied by unauthorized tenants;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to evacuate the unauthorized persons from the P & T quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Staff quarters have been built for the welfare of staff and, in some cases, as Post-attached - purpose by the Department of Posts.

(b) The country is divided into 22 Postal Circles and the Circle-wise information about availability of Postal staff quarters is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid in the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of Staff Quarters Available for Postal Employees

Sl. No.	Name of Postal Circle	Type of Quarters					Post attached	Total
		Type-I	Type-II	Type-III	Type-IV	Type-V & VI		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	335	509	141	8	11	254	1258
2.	Assam	225	250	70	7	1	144	697
3.	Bihar	319	501	139	31	6	67	1063
4.	Chhattisgarh	125	225	78	10	2	255	695
5.	Delhi	398	822	278	29	5	74	1606
6.	Gujarat	483	490	135	30	8	245	1391
7.	Haryana	146	186	46	13	2	62	455
8.	Himachal Pradesh	197	217	76	8	1	63	562
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	33	63	44	10	1	46	197

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Jharkhand	164	256	66	6	1	62	555
11.	Karnataka	435	705	143	27	7	334	1651
12.	Kerala	213	307	62	10	4	400	996
13.	Madhya Pradesh	225	361	120	25	5	124	860
14.	Maharashtra	854	926	392	40	10	239	2461
15.	North East	140	153	54	7	6	107	467
16.	Orissa	245	507	233	21	6	116	1128
17.	Punjab	260	310	118	28	7	103	826
18.	Rajasthan	473	687	232	40	7	191	1630
19.	Tamil Nadu	474	683	197	34	6	1413	2807
20.	Uttaranchal	105	147	12	3	0	48	315
21.	Uttar Pradesh	641	797	148	35	18	365	2004
22.	West Bengal	507	813	121	15	0	56	1512
		6997	9915	2905	437	114	4768	25136

Singapore Visa Office

88. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any letter/proposal from the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding Singapore VISA offices;

(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 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Chief Minister had requested the External Affairs Minister to assist in reopening the Visa Office and, if possible, its upgradation to a Consulate.

(c) Government ascertained that the Visa Office was opened in 1987 on a temporary basis and closed in 2004. Upon enquiry, Singapore has conveyed that should the need for a permanent visa processing office in Kolkata arise in future, Singapore would certainly give it due consideration. This factual position has been conveyed by the External Affairs Minister to the Chief Minister.

Assurance Pending Implementation

89. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 237 has been pending implementation since November 20, 2002; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in fulfilling the assurance and by when the same will be fulfilled?

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

(b) The question relates to letters written by MPs to CVC regarding corruption in Kendriya Bhandar. To take a decision in the matter, it was found necessary to consult the CVC and the Anti-Corruption Branch of Delhi Police who has further referred the matter to CBI. Since consultations with a number of agencies are necessary, it is taking some time to take a final decision. The matter is being pursued.

Repair of N.H. 60

90. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the dilapidated road NH 60 from Bishnupur to Baukure in West Bengal has not been repaired after taking over from the State highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the three weak bridges from Govindadham to Mejia will be constructed soon;

(d) if so, the time by which it will be constructed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of improvement works undertaken in the stretch from Bishnupur (km 195) to Baukure (km 231) after taking over from the State highway and to be undertaken during the current year Annual Plan are tabulated below:-

Stretch	Length	Nature of work	Year of Sanction	Completed in
Kms 195-200	05 km	Periodic Renewal	2002-2003	March 2003
Km 200-221	21 km	Periodic Renewal	2001-2002	March 2002
Kms 221-231	10 km	Improvement of Riding quality	2001-2002	March 2002
Kms 195-205	10 km	Widening to two lane & strengthening	Included in the modified Annual Plan (2004-05) at a cost of Rs. 7.00 crore. Estimate is awaited from the state PWD.	

(c) to (e) Between Govindadham (245 km) and Mejia (271 km), there are three bridges namely, Sali at km 247.25, Kanimara at km. 265.78 and Tarapur Bridge at km. 269.25. Existing bridges at these locations are distressed, weak and narrow. For planned development of NH-60 including reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges etc Ministry has sanctioned feasibility study in the year 2002-03 which is being done departmentally by the State PWD. Overall improvement of this NH including reconstruction of bridges etc shall be taken up in a phased manner depending upon outcome of feasibility study, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Export of Ayurvedic Drugs

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for promoting the export of ayurvedic drugs/preparations in view of the increasing popularity of such drugs/preparations in the West;

(b) whether any incentives are being given to farmers producing medicinal plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Government have taken a number of

initiatives to facilitate export of Ayurvedic products to foreign countries. As export to the quality conscious Western countries pre-supposes assured quality products, pharmacopoeial standards have been developed for a number of Ayurvedic drugs. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) has been made compulsory and manufacturers are being provided with incentives for developing in-house quality control laboratories and infrastructure for GMP compliance. Government also conduct market survey of medicinal plants/ crude drugs from time to time to promote export of Ayurvedic/ Herbal products. An exhibition of traditional medicine/ ayurvedic medicine is organized annually during the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme under which subsidy to the extent of 30% of the cultivation cost is given to the farmers for cultivation of medicinal plants. The other components of the Scheme include promotional activities, commercial activities and contractual farming of medicinal plants.

[Translation]

Integrated Disease Monitoring Project

92. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has been neglected in the integrated disease monitoring project launched by the

Government as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated November 9, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not launching this project in Uttar Pradesh where medical facilities are inadequate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project has been launched on 8th November, 2004. All the States/UTs will be covered under the project in a phased manner the details of which are given below:

Phase I (2004-2005)-

Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram & Kerala.

Phase II (2005-2006)-

Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Delhi.

Phase III (2006-2007)-

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Andman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep.

As indicated above, Uttar Pradesh is slated for coverage in Phase III. However, the districts of Uttar Pradesh covered under the Pilot Project "National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases" are covered in Phase I.

[English]

Health Insurance Scheme

93. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :

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

(a) whether health insurance scheme to target below poverty line has been introduced in the country;

(b) if so, whether a number of National Insurance companies have undertaken a detailed study to meet the target;

(c) if so, whether any target has been fixed during 2004-05 for health insurance;

(d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to be achieved; and

(e) the number of families below poverty line that has been covered so far under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Writing off Loans

94. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has proposed to write off the entire amount of Rs. 250,000 crore outstanding Central loans to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the burden of the States debt is likely to be reduced?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Assistance from World Bank

95. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received assistance from the World Bank for development of National and State Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the same, State-wise especially in respect of Gujarat;

(c) whether it is also a fact that part of the assistance was utilised for development of National and State Highways in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of ongoing World Bank Funded Project are enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Details are enclosed as statement-II.

(e) Does not rise.

Statement-I*Details of on-going World Bank Funded Projects*

S. No.	Name of Project	Date of Agreement	Date of Closing	Total Committed Amount (US \$ million)	Total Disbursed Amount (US \$ million)
1.	3rd National Highway Project	11.08.2000	30.06.06	516.000	202.004
2.	Gujarat State Highway Project	18.10.2000	31.12.05	350.000	143.576
3.	Karnataka State Highway Project	26.07.2001	31.12.06	360.000	97.870
4.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	27.07.2001	31.12.06	589.000	164.410
5.	Kerala State Transport Project	06.05.2002	31.12.07	255.000	47.104
6.	Mizoram State Roads Project	06.05.2002	31.12.07	60.000	15.000
7.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	19.02.2003	31.12.08	488.000	54.861
8.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	28.08.2003	31.03.09	348.000	15.014
9.	Allahabad Bypass Project	16.12.2003	30.06.09	240.000	12.400
Total				3206.000	752.239

Statement-II*Details of Projects in the State of Gujarat*

Loan No.	4577-IN
Implementation Agency	Government of Gujarat
Nature of the Project	State Project
Signature/Effective/Closing Dates	18.10.2000/28.11.2000/ 31.12.2005
Loan Amount Net	US \$ 381.000 million (Revised \$ 350.000 million)
Project Cost at Appraisal	US & 533.000 million
Un-drawn Balance as on 30.06.2004	US \$ 220.16 million
Percentage of External Assistance	75%
Cumulative Disbursements up to 30.06.2004	US \$ 129.884 million

Satellite Based Rural Interface

96. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a satellite based rural interface is now in operation to serve a variety of community needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of Indian Space Research Organisation in setting up the village resource centre?

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

(b) and (c) Indian Space Research Organisation, in association with selected non-governmental and voluntary agencies, has embarked upon a new initiative to set up satellite based Village Resource Centres (VRCs) in different parts of the country. These VRCs are meant for reaching a variety of services and products emanating from space technology; such as tele-education, tele-medicine, spatial information on natural resources for developmental planning at micro-watershed and village levels, interactive advisory services related to agriculture development, advisories on fisheries potential, etc., directly to the rural communities. Indian Space Research Organisation provides digital connectivity to the Village Resource Centres (VRCs) through the INSAT satellites for enabling the services as stated above and spatial data and information on land and water resources through the IRS satellites for developmental planning at local levels.

Job Opportunities for Women in SSI Sector

97. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has emphasised the creation of more employment opportunities for women in rural areas by implementing various rural development schemes through the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives provided and targets fixed by the Government for the new industrial units for creating job opportunities in favour of women in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the target set for setting up of such new units during the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES : (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing various programmes/scheme like the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) throughout the country to create more employment opportunities, including those for women. The REGP is implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the PMRY is implemented through the District Industries Centres (DICs) in each State/Union Territory (UT). Besides, the Mahila Coir Yojana, a women-oriented self-employment scheme, is implemented by the Coir Board all over the country.

(c) and (d) Under the REGP, for setting up a self-employment project costing upto Rs. 10 lakh, 25 per cent margin money assistance is provided to the general category of beneficiaries, whereas in the case of women entrepreneurs, as well as beneficiaries from other weaker sections, the margin money assistance is 30 per cent for the project costing up to Rs. 10 lakh. For projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, 10 percent of the remaining cost of the project (i.e. cost above Rs. 10 lakh) is provided

as margin money. Own contribution of the women entrepreneurs has been limited to 5 per cent of project cost as against 10 per cent in the case of general category entrepreneurs. State-wise details of the estimated incentives in the form of margin money provided and new industrial projects sanctioned to women entrepreneurs under the REGP during the last three years is enclosed herewith as statement.

Under the PMRY, educated unemployed youth, both men and women, between the ages of 18 to 35 years are assisted to set up self-employed units costing upto Rs. 2 lakh. Bank loans constitute 80 per cent of the project cost. Of the remaining 20 per cent of project cost, subsidy is subject to the maximum of Rs. 7500 per beneficiary and the balance amount is the margin money contribution of the beneficiary. In the case of women, the age is relaxed upto 45 years and preference is given to women candidates at the time of sponsoring of cases. Based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), details of the cases of loans sanctioned and disbursed to women for the last three years is enclosed as statement-II.

Under the Mahila Coir Yojana, a one-time subsidy of 75 per cent of the cost of a motorized ratt, upto a maximum of Rs. 7500 and Rs. 2625 for a motorized traditional ratts respectively, is being granted to women workers. Details of distribution of ratts and assistance sanctioned during the last three years under the Mahila Coir Yojana are enclosed as statement-III.

State-wise targets exclusively for women entrepreneurs have not been fixed. However, field offices have been advised to ensure that at least 30 per cent of the total number of assisted projects are of women entrepreneurs in each years under the REGP. Under the PMRY, preference is given to weaker sections including women, from both urban and rural areas, at the time of sponsoring cases.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Projects Sanctioned and Margin Money (MM) utilised under women category under REGP of KVI sector

(Project in no., Margin Money (MM) in Rs. Lakh)

Sr. No.	States/ Union Territories	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Projects Sanctioned	MM Utilised	Projects Sanctioned	MM Utilised	Projects Sanctioned	MM Utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	North Zone						
1.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.56
2.	Delhi	0	0.00	3	1.81	0	0.00
3.	Haryana	44	39.90	209	297.97	272	212.50
4.	Himachal Pradesh	51	46.38	110	178.90	93	72.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	61.63	0	0.00	139	108.59
6.	Punjab	96	87.26	376	534.93	209	163.28
7.	Rajasthan	227	206.80	717	513.13	754	589.06
Total - I		427	441.97	1415	1526.74	1469	1147.65
II East Zone							
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0.00	58	23.79	11	8.59
2.	Bihar	3	2.91	45	43.16	17	13.28
3.	Jharkhand	16	2.40	54	33.08	29	22.66
4.	Orissa	53	48.33	339	76.07	6	4.69
5.	West Bengal	128	198.66	311	208.61	454	354.69
Total-II		200	252.30	807	384.71	517	403.91
III North East Zone							
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	9	18.63	15	11.72
2.	Assam	17	15.57	162	121.17	37	28.90
3.	Manipur	0	0.00	22	24.38	27	21.09
4.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	58	47.64	66	51.56
5.	Mizoram	0	0.00	37	63.31	11	8.59
6.	Nagaland	0	0.00	24	13.33	11	8.59
7.	Sikkim	0	0.00	3	7.08	33	25.78
8.	Tripura	0	0.00	7	3.12	5	3.91
Total - III		17	15.57	322	298.66	205	160.14
IV South Zone							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	69	62.77	606	810.26	335	261.72
2.	Karnataka	112	102.34	459	610.13	258	201.56
3.	Kerala	123	112.24	246	395.72	524	409.38
4.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.56
5.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	4.69
6.	Tamil Nadu	53	46.71	331	228.28	456	356.25
Total-IV		357	324.06	1642	2044.39	1581	1235.16
V West Zone							
1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
2.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Goa	41	37.63	121	100.59	16	12.50
4.	Gujarat	7	6.48	34	25.61	87	67.97
5.	Maharashtra	221	200.15	1049	727.07	209	163.28
Total-V		269	244.26	1204	853.27	312	243.75
VI Central Zone							
1.	Chhattisgarh	11	0.99	80	178.75	163	127.34
2.	Madhya Pradesh	91	81.91	232	207.18	241	188.28
3.	Uttaranchal	23	3.52	120	137.73	334	260.94
4.	Uttar Pradesh	391	257.42	385	609.30	904	706.25
Total - VI		516	343.84	817	1132.96	1642	1282.81
Grand Total		1786	1822.00	6207	6240.73	5726	4473.42

Note : # included in Maharashtra

Statement-II

Status of cases sanctioned and cases disbursed to women entrepreneurs under PMRY

Year	No. of Cases Sanctioned			No. of Cases Disbursed			Estimated Employment Generated
	Total	Women	Proportion of Women (per cent)	Total	Women	Promotion of Women (per cent)	
2001-2002	237392	29793	12.55	189860	23786	12.53	35679
2002-2003	227892	28875	12.67	190129	23460	12.34	35190
2003-0004	255978	34439	13.45	172464	24365	14.13	36548

Source : RBI data

Statement-III

Details of distribution of ratts and assistance sanctioned during the last three years under the Mahila Coir Yojana

Year	No. of ratts distributed	Assistance sanctioned
2001-02	221	Rs. 1506168
2002-03	1303	Rs. 3879000
2003-04	1514	Rs. 6263000

[Translation]

Allotment of Pay Phones/PCOs to the Unemployed Youth

98. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

- whether the Government proposes to allot Pay Phones/PCOs to the unemployed youths throughout the country on priority basis;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government has received reports regarding alleged violation of the instructions issued in this regard;
- if so, the number of persons found guilty in this regard and the nature of punishment awarded to them by the Government; and
- the provisions in place to ensure that violation of rules does not take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, PCOs are allotted liberally to all applicants 18 years of age and above as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. No priority for unemployed youth is considered necessary as the PCOs are available on demand in major part of the country.

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

[English]

Utilisation of Coal Pits Water

99. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is aware that the vast quantity of water that is required to be pumped out from the coal pits is not being utilised effectively;;
- whether any study/examination has been carried out regarding the residual water, after catering for "stowing" which either seeps back to mini deposits or is wasted for its utilisation after purifying as drinking water;
- if so, the details thereof;
- if not, whether the Government has any proposal to undertake such a study; and
- 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) Most of the mine water pumped out is utilized in the mines itself for dust suppression workshop, fire fighting stowing in underground mines and plantation in and around coalfield areas. Some water is also used after treatment for domestic consumption. After all these uses, excess water pumped out from the mines is sent in nearby drain/nallah, which flows along the natural drainage of land.

(b) to (e) The residual water after catering to the needs of stowing is routed to underground sumps and then pumped to surface water tanks for filtration and other purposes. Part of this water is used for sand stowing purposes. By this re-circulation, maximum quantities of water are utilized effectively.

[Translation]

Constitution of Consultative Committee

100. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consultative committees of various levels under his Ministry has not been constituted so far;

(b) if so, the basis on which district, division and state level consultative committees are constituted; and

(c) the time by which such committees are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There is no Consultative Committee at any level under Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, however, there are Telephone Advisory Committees at Telecom District Level.

As per present constitution Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted at district level only. The committees have been formed wherever recommendations have been received.

(b) Constitution of TACs is the discretion of Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology. It is constituted on the recommendations received from elected representatives covering various segments of society.

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

[English]

Infant Mortality Reduction Programme

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

(a) whether the Government has launched the Infant Mortality Reduction Programme in some States;

(b) if so, the States where the programme has been launched;

(c) whether the programme has been launched in Orissa;

(d) if so, the year since when the programme has been launched in that State; and

(e) the achievement made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Reduction of infant mortality has been the objective of the initiatives being implemented by the Government of India under child health.

(b) These initiatives are being launched in all the States of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) • Child Survival and Safe motherhood Programme-1992.

• Reproductive and Child Health Programme-15.10.97.

(e) The Infant mortality Rate for Orissa, as per the SRS data (2002) was 87/1000.

[Translation]

Promotion of Doctors

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

(a) the details of the rules of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for promotion of the doctors and employees serving in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) whether there has been any hindrance in the promotion of doctors since the year 2002 and till date; and

(c) if so, the number of doctors waiting for their DPC promotion since 2002?

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 Sabha.

Telephone Exchanges in Osmanabad

103. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether all the exchanges in the district are equipped with STD and ISD facilities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The total number of telephone exchanges in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra are 91.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

[English]

**Study on Women's
Reproductive Health**

104. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHORE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study focussing on womens reproductive health recently;

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

(c) whether a good percentage of women in the country are suffering from Reproductive Tract Infection; (RTI)

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation; and

(e) the names of the NGOs working in Maharashtra towards it and other welfare activities of women including the destitute women in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a district level household survey covering 50% of the districts of the country has been undertaken during 2002-03. The survey included a number of indicators including indicators on reproductive health of women. The survey has shown that 11.6% women complained of some symptom of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI)/Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), in case of 6.4% women the husband also had symptoms of RTI/STI. 57.1% women were found to be aware of HIV/AIDS infections and 39% were aware of RTI/STI. The survey in the remaining 50 % of the districts of the country is currently going on.

Prevention and treatment of RTI/STI is an integral component of the on-going Reproductive and Child Health programme. States are being assisted with provision of RTI/STI drug kits for use at the first referral units @ 3 kits in A category, 2 in B category and 1 in C category districts. Funds are also being provided for engaging laboratory technicians @ 2 per district. Training in treatment and prevention of RTI/STIs in an integral part of the skills based training under RCH Programme.

(e) Four Mother NGOs namely Society for Service of Voluntary Agencies (SOSVA), Pune; Godvari Foundation, Jalgaon; Paravara Medical Trust, Ahmednagar, Sevadharm Trust, Pune are engaged in carrying out awareness

generation activities on RCH Programme interventions including reproductive health of women.

Market Borrowing by NHA

105. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund generated by the National Highway Authority of India from market borrowing for financing the national highway development projects in the country during the last three years;

(b) the works undertaken by the NHA during the last three years;

(c) whether the projects are going on as per schedule;

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

(e) whether the fund so raised has been spent in the most judicious way; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The position of funds raised by National Highways Authority of India from market borrowings for financing the National Highways Development Project in the country during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Source	Amount (Rupees in crores)
2001-02	Issue Capital Gain Tax	804.44
2002-03	Exemption Bonds u/s 54	5592.94

(b) The status of work undertaken by the NHA during the last three years is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) and (d) Various ongoing projects are in different stages of progress. Works under NHDP are targeted to be completed by December 2007.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The details of expenditure incurred out of the funds received by NHA from various sources (cess allocations, budgetary grants and loss for Externally Aided Projects and share of private sector participation) including funds raised from Market Borrowings are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I
Contracts Awarded During year 2001-2002

SN	Contract/Stretch/ State	NH No.	Length (km)	Date of		Funded by	Contractor and its nationality	Supervision Consultant and its nationality	Present Status
				Start/ Anticipated	Completion Anticipated				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
On Golden Quadrilaterals									
1.	Agra-Shikohabad km 199.66 – km 250.50 (Uttar Pradesh)	2	50.83	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	WB	M/s Oriental Structural Engg. Ltd. – Gammon (India)	ICT Pvt. Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
2.	Shikohabad – Etawah Km 250.5 – km 307.5 (Uttar Pradesh)	2	59.02	Mar 2002	Dec 2006	WB	China Coal Const. Group Cons. (China)	ICT Pvt. Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
3.	Etawah Bypass Km 307.5 – 321.1 (Uttar Pradesh)	2	13.6	Apr 2001	June 2006	NHAI	Bhageeratha Engg. India & Ashwini Const. Co. (JV) (Indian)	SMEC India (Indian)	Under Implementation
4.	Etawah – Raipur Km 321.1 km 393 (Uttar Pradesh)	2	72.825	Mar 2002	June 2005	WB	PATI-BEL (Malaysia- Indian)	CES-BECA (JV) (Indian - New Zealand)	Under Implementation
5.	Kanpur – Fatehpur Km 470 – 483 (o) km 0 to km 38 (Uttar Pradesh)	2	51.5	Mar 2002	June 2006	WB	Somdukt Builders-NCC- NEC (JV) (Indian)	CES-BECA (JV) (Indian-New Zealand)	Under Implementation
6.	Varanasi - Mohania Km 317 – 329 (o) km 0 – km 65 (Uttar Pradesh (55)Bihar (21)	2	76	Mar 2002	June 2005	WB	PCL-Sunway Berhad (JV) (Indian-Malaysia)	N.D. Lea Intl. (Canada)	Under Implementation
7.	Sasaram - Dehri on sons Km 110-km 240 (Bihar)	2	30	Mar 2002	June 2006	WB	Somdukt Builders - NCC (JV) (Indian)	Lea Intl. (Canada)	Under Implementation
8.	Aurangabad-Barachatti Km 180 - km 140 (Bihar)	2	60	Sep 2001	Dec 2005	WB	Oriental Structural Engg. Ltd. & Gammon India Ltd. (JV Indian)	SMEC India (Indian)	Under Implementation
9.	Reiganj - Barakata Km 240 - km 320 (Bihar 10/Jharkhand(70)	2	80	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	WB	L & T - HCC (JV) (Indian)	BITES - Halcrow (JV) (Indian-UK)	Under Implementation
10.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda Km 320-km 398.75 (Jharkhand)	2	78.75	Sep 2001	Dec 2005	WB	Progressive Const. Ltd. & Sunway Berhad (JV) (India - Malaysian JV)	SMEC India (Indian)	Under Implementation
11.	Jaipur Bypass II Km 221 to NH - 8 - km 246 of NH - 11 (Rajasthan)	8	34.7	Dec 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	Punj Lyod & Progressive Const. Ltd. (JV) (Indian)	Meritech Ltd., Mahendra Raj Con. Aarvee Associates (New Zealand - India -India)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Kishanganj - Nasirabad (KU - I) Km 363.9 (nh-8) to km 15 (NH-79) (Rajasthan)	79A	36.23	Nov 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	Sadbhav Eng. Ltd. (Indian)	DORSCH Consultants (Germany)	4 Laned
13.	Nasirabad Gulabpura (KU-II) Km 15 - km 70 (Rajasthan)	79	55.87	Nov 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	Punj Llyod Ltd. - Progressive Const. Ltd. (India)	DORSCH Consultants (Germany)	4 Laned
14.	Gulabpura - Bhilwara Bypass (KU - III) Km 70 - km 120 (Rajasthan)	79	50	Nov 2001	Sept. 2004	NHAI	ECSB - JSRC (JV) Malaysian - Indian JV	SNC Lavalin International (Canada)	4 Laned
15.	Bhilwara Bypass- Chitorgarh (KU-IV) Km 120 km - Km 183 (Rajasthan)	79	66	Nov 2001	May 2004	NHAI	B Seensiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd. (Indian)	SNC Lavalin International (Canada)	4 Laned
16.	Chitorgarh- Mangalwar (KU-V) Km 220 - km 172 (Rajasthan)	76	48	Nov 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	Madhuconi Binapuri (JV) (Malaysian- Indian)	SMEC International Pty. Ltd. (Australia)	4 Laned
17.	Mangalwar - Udaipur (KU-VI) Km 172. km. 113.825 (Rajasthan)	76	58.175	Nov 2001	Jan 2005	NHAI	Sadbhav - Prakash (JV) (Indian)	SMEC International Pty. Ltd. (Australia)	Under Implementation
18.	Udaipur - Kesariaji (UG - I) Km 278 - km 340 (Rajasthan)	8	62	Oct 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	KMC Const. Ltd. (Indian)	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick O Span Cons.- Consulting Engineer Group Ltd. (UK-Indian-India)	4 Laned
19.	Kesariaji-Ratanpur - (UG-II) Km 340 - km 388.4 (Rajasthan)	8	48.4	Oct 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	Gayatri - Ranjit (JV) (Indian)	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Span Cons. - Consulting Engineer Group Ltd. (UK-Indian-India)	Under Implementation
20.	Ratanpur-Himatnagar (UG-III) Km 388 - km 443 (Gujarat)	8	54.6	Nov 2001	Dec 2003	NHAI	Mudajaya - IRB (Malaysian - Indian JV)	STUP Consultants Ltd.,- Bangladesh Cons. (Indian- Bangladesh)	4 laned
21.	Ahmedabad - Vadodara exp. Way Phase II Km 43.3 (Nadiad- dakor SH) - km 93.302 (Gujarat)	NE 1	50	June 2001	May 2004	SPV	LG Engg. And Const. Co. & Nagarjun Const. Ltd. (Korean - Indian JV)	CES-Halcrow Association (Indian-UK)	4 laned

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-1) Km 17.6 - Km 72 (West Bengal)	6	54.4	May 2001	June 2005	NHAI	RBM - PATI (JV) (Malaysian)	ICT - SNC Lavalin (Indian - Canadian)	Under Implementation
23.	Kharagpur - Laxmanath (WB - IV) km 53.41 - km 119.275 (West Bengal)	60	65.86	June 2001	June 2005	NHAI	B Seenaiah Company Ltd. (Indian)	Louis Berger Intl-NICE (USA-Indian)	Under Implementation
24.	Bridges Section (OR/WB-1) Km-0 - km 119.275 Kharagpur-Baleswar (Orissa)	60	0	Sep 2001	Dec. 2005	NHAI	Gammon India Ltd. (Indian)	Louis Berger Intl-NICE (USA - Indian)	Under Implementation
25.	Balasore - Bhadrak (OR - III) Km 136.5 - km 199.14 (Orissa)	5	62.64	May 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Eisamex-TWS-Shanker Narayan Shetty (JV) (Spain - Indian JV)	Sheladia Associates Inc. (USA)	Under Implementation
26.	BridgesSection (ORV) Km 199 - km 61 Balasore - Chandikhole (Orissa)	5	11.587	Aug 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Gammon India Ltd. (Indian)	Louis Berger Int. Inc. (Indian)	Under Implementation
27.	Khurda - Sunakhala (OR-VI) Km 388 - km 338 (Orissa)	5	52.058	May 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Sumbher Mitra Jays-Rohit Kumar - Sri Durga Ocnst. (JV) (Indonesian-Indian JV)	DHV Int. BV (Netherlands)	Under Implementation
28.	Sunakhala - Ganjam (OR-VII) Km 338 - km 284 (Orissa)	5	55.713	Aug 2001	June 2006	NHAI	Progressive - Sticco (Indian - South Arabian)	DHV Int. BV (Netherlands)	Under Implementation
29.	Ganjam - Iechapuram (OR VIII) Km 284 - km 223 (Orissa)	5	50.8	June 2001	Dec 2006	NHAI	Bumi-Hiway-DDBL (Malaysian-Indian JV)	DHV Int. BV (Netherlands)	Under Implementation
30.	Iechapuram-Korlam (AP 4B) Km 233-km 200 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	33	Sep 2001	June 2005	NHAI	Skanska Cementation India Ltd. (Indian)	BECA-CES-RITES (New Zealand-India)	Under Implementation
31.	Korlam-Palasa (AP 4 A) Km 200 - km 171 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	29	Sept 2001	June 2005	NHAI	Skanska Cementation India Ltd. (Indian)	BECA-CES-RITES (New Zealand-Indian)	Under Implementation
32.	Palasa - Srikakulam (AP 2) Km 171 - km 97 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	74	June 2001	Apr 2005	NHAI	SPCL-IVRCL (Indian)	BECA-CES-RITES (New Zealand - Indian)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33.	Bridges section (AP 6) Km 233 - km 98 Srikakulam - Icchapuram (Andhra Pradesh)	5	0	Sep 2001	Apr 2005	NHAI	Navyug Engg. Co. Ltd. (Indian)	BECA-CES-RITES (New Zealand-Indian)	Under Implementation
34.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP 1) Km 97 - km 49 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	48	June 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	You one - Maharia (South Korean - Indian JV)	Sheladia - RITES (JV) (USA - Indian)	Under Implementation
35.	Champawati-Visakhapatnam (AP 3) Km 49 - km 2.8 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	46.2	June 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	Unitech - NCC (JV) (Indian)	Sheladia - RITES (JV) (USA - Indian)	Under Implementation
36.	Bridges section (AP 5) Km 49 - km 97 (Champawati - Srikakulam) (Andhra Pradesh)	5	.	Aug 2001	Sep 2003	NHAI	Prasad & SEW (JV) (Indian)	Sheladai - RITES (JV) (USA - Indian)	4 Laned
37.	Divancheru 9 near Rajahmundry-Gowthami (AP 17) Km 200 - km 164.5 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	34.95	June 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	Punj Lloyd Ltd. (Indian)	SNC-Lavalin Intl. & AARVEE Associates (Canadian-Indian)	Under Implementation
38.	Bridges section (AP 19) km 162-km 200 V-V Section (Andhra Pradesh)	5	2.45	Aug 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	L & T Ltd. (Indian)	SNC-Lavalin Intl. & AARVEE Associates (Canadian - Indian)	Under Implementation
39.	Gowthami-Gundugolanu (AP 18) Km 164.5 - km 80 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	81.08	Aug 2001	Feb 2004	NHAI	Limak - Soma (JV) (Turkish - Indian JV)	SNC-Lavalin Intl. & AARVEE Associates (Canadian - Indian)	4 Laned
40.	Bridges section (AP 20) Km 80 - km 162 V-V section (Andhra Pradesh)	5	0	Aug 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	L & T Ltd. (Indian)	SNC-Lavalin Intl. & AARVEE Associates (Canadian - Indian)	Under Implementation
41.	Chikaluripet - Ongole (AP 13) Km 357.9 - km 291 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	66	June 2001	June 2005	NHAI	IJM-Gayatri (Malaysian-Indina JV)	KM International & Secon Surveys Ltd., (Swedan - Indian)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
42.	Ongole - Kavali (AP 12) Km 291 - km 222 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	72	Aug 2001	June 2005	NHAI	HO-HUP-Simplex (JV) (Malaysian-Indian JV)	K M International & Secon Surveys Ltd., (Sweden - Indian)	Under Implementation
43.	Kavali - Nellore (AP 11) Km 222 - km 178 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	43.8	May 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	KNR - Patel JV (Indian)	KM International & Secon Surveys Ltd., (Sweden - Indian)	Under Implementation
44.	Nellore - Tada Km 163.6 km 52.8 (Andhra Pradesh)	5	110.52	Aug 2001	Dec 2003	BOT	CIDBI Malasia (Malaysian)	Louise Berger (Group Inc. (USA)	4 Laned
45.	Tada - Chennai (TN-1) Km 52.8 km 11 (Tamil Nadu)	5	41.8	June 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	L & T Ltd. (Indian)	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Indian Pvt. Ltd. (UK)	Under Implementation
46.	Katraj - Sarole (PS-3) Km 825.5 - km 797 (Maharashtra)	4	28.5	Nov 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Satav Constt. Pvt. Ltd. And Dena Rehseaz (Indian - Iranian)	Span Consultants-Symonds (JV) (Indian)	Under Implementation
47.	Sarole - Wathar (PS 2) Km 797 - km 760 excluding km 773- km 781 (Maharashtra)	4	29	Nov 2001	Dec 2003	NHAI	Birla GTM Interpose Ltd., & BG Shirke Const. Tech. Ltd. (Indiana)	Span Consultants-Symonds (JV) (Indian)	4 Laned
48.	Wathar - Satara (PS 1) km 760 - km 725 (Maharashtra)	4	35	Jul 2001	Dec 2003	NHAI	Skanska Cementation India Ltd. (Indian)	SPAN Consultants-Symonds (JV) (Indian)	4 Laned
49.	Satara - Kagal km 725 km-592.24 (Maharashtra)	4	133	Feb 2002	Mar 2005	BOT	MSRDC Ltd. Mumbai (Indian)	ICT Pvt. Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
50.	Beigaum Bypass Km 515 - km 494 (Karnataka)	4	18	June 2001	Apr 2005	NHAI	Sunway constt. Berhad & R N Shetty & Co. (Malaysian-Indian JV)	Roughton International - CED (UK-Indian)	Under Implementation
51.	Hubli - Haveri Km 404 - km 340 (Karnataka)	4	64	June 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Aicons-Apil (JV) (Indian)	Roughton International - CED (UK-Indian)	Under Implementation
52.	Haveri-Haritar Km 340-km 284 (Karnataka)	4	56	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	ADB	UEM-ESSAR (JV) (Malaysian-Indian)	ICT Pvt. Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
53.	Harihara-Chitradurga Km 284 - km 207 (Karnataka)	4	18	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	ADB	UEM-ESSAR (JV) (Malaysian-Indian)	ICT Pvt. Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
54.	Chitradurga Bypass Km 207 - Km 189 (Karnataka)	4	18	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	Adb	Dolomite Berhad - AL Sudershan (JV) (Malaysian - Indian)	Louis Berger (USA)	Under Implementation
55.	Chitradurga - Sira Km 189 - km 122.3 (Karnataka)	4	66.7	Mar 2002	Dec 2005	Adb	UEM - ESSAR (JV) (Malaysian - Indian)	Louis Berger (USA)	Under Implementation
56.	Sira-Tumkur Km 116.4 - Km 75 (Karnataka)	4	41.4	Mar 2002	Dec 2004	ADB	L & T (Indian)	Louis Berger (USA)	Under Implementation
57.	Tumkur Bypass Km 75 - km 62 (Karnataka)	4	13	Dec 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	AL Sudershan & Co. (Indian)	Stup Consultants (Indian)	Under Implementation
58.	Hosur - Krishnagiri Km 48.6 - km 94.0 (Tamil Nadu)	7	45.4	Jun 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	Shakti Kumar Sancheti Ltd. & Bhola Singh Jaya Prakash (JV) (Indian)	Span Consultants (Indian)	4 Landed
59.	Krishnagiri- Vaniyambadi (KR 1) Km 0 to km 49 (Tamil Nadu)	46	49	Nov 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	Patel - KNR (JV) (Indian)	RITES-CECON-Sir Own Williams (Indian-UK)	Under Implementation
60.	Vaniyambadi- Palikonda (KR 2) Km 49.0 to km 100.0 Tamil Nadu)	46	51	Nov 2001	Aug 2005	NHAI	Skansta Cementation India Ltd. (Indian)	RITES-CECON-Sir Own Williams (Indian - UK)	Under Implementation
61.	Palikonda - Ranpet and Walahajpet Bypass (KR 3) Km 100.0 - km 145.0 (Tamil Nadu)	46	45	Oct. 2001	Aug 2005	NHAI	Skansta Cementation India Ltd (Indian)	RITES-CECON-Sir Own Williams (Indian-UK)	Under Implementation
62.	Walahajpet- Kanchipuram Km 106.4 - km 70.2 (Tamil Nadu)	4	36.2	Sep 2001	Jan 2004	NHAI	L & T Ltd. (Indian)	Sauti - Gherzi (JV) (Italian - Indian)	4 Laned
63.	Kanchipuram- Poonamalee Km 70.2 - km 13.8 (Tamil Nadu)	4	56.4	Jul 2001	Dec 2005	NHAI	Atcon Infrastructure Ltd. (Indian)	Sauti - Gherzi (JV) (Italian - India)	Under Implementation
64.	Guwahati Bypass Km 156.00 - km 146 (Assam)	37	10.5	Sep 2001	June 2004	NHAI	Banvari Lal Agarwal (BLA) - CISC-C & C Const. (JV) (Indian)	STUP (Indian)	4 Laned
65.	Purena - Gayakota Km 447 km 419 (Bihar)	31	28	Sep 2001	June 2005	NHAI	Lanco Const. Ltd., Rani (JV) (Indian)	Scotwilson & Kirkpatrick (UK)	Under Implementation

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
66.	Lucknow Bypass Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH-56 passing through Lucknow City (Uttar Pradesh)			522.85	Sep 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	Prakash-Atlanta (JV) (Indian)	CES (I) Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
67.	Lucknow - Kanpur section Km 21.80 to km 44.0 (Uttar Pradesh)	25	22.2		Sept 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	Vilayati Ram Mittal (Indian)	Archtech Con (Indian)	Under Implementation
68.	Lucknow-Kanpur section Km 44 - km 59.5 (Uttar Pradesh)	25	15.5		Sept 2001	Dec 2004	NHAI	BR Arora & Associate (BRA) - TR Gupta- Bharat (JV) (Indian)	Archtech Con (Indian)	Under Implementation
69.	Palampur - Dessa Km 350.0 to km 372.70 (Gujarat)	14	22.7		Aug 2001	Feb 2003	NHAI	Dinesh Chandra R Agarwal (Indian)	Frischman Prabhu (Indian)	4 Laned
70.	Ribda to Gondal section Km 160 - km 143 (Gujarat)	8B	17		Sep 2001	Oct 2002	NHAI	Tarmat-Backnobe Projects (JV) (Indian)	HSS Feedback (Malaysian)	4 Laned
71.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur Km 97 to km 80 (Jammu and Kashmir)	1A	17.2		Jan 2002	Aug 2005	NHAI	Border Road Org. (Indian)	Lea Associates (Canadian)	Under Implementation
72.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar Km 26 to Km 4.23 (Punjab)	1A	21.77		Aug 2001	Oct 2004	NHAI	Bhuri Highway (Malaysian)	Engg. & Mgmt. Ass. (Indian)	4 Laned
73.	6 laning of Pachi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonapat) Km 66.0 - km 44.3	1	21.7		Aug 2001	Feb 2005	NHAI	Maharia - Raj (JV) (Indian)	RITES Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
74.	8 laning of Haryana/ Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk km 29.3 - km 16.5 (Delhi)	1	12.9		Aug 2001	Feb 2005	NHAI	Maharia - Raj (JV) (Indian)	RITES Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
75.	8 laning of Mukarbad Chowk to mail Road (Delhi) km 16.2 - km 8.2 (Delhi)	1	8.5		Nov 2001	Feb 2005	NHAI	Madhucon Projects Ltd. (Indian)	RITES Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
76.	Raj/UP border to Mania Km 24 to km 41 (Uttar Pradesh (7) Rajasthan (10)	3	17	Aug 2001	Nov 2004	NHAI	PNC Const. Co. (Indian)	Craphtis (Indian)	Under Implementation
77.	Sarai Cholia to Morena Km 70.0 - km 85.0 (Madhya Pradesh)	3	15	Sep 2001	Aug 2004	NHAI	Prakash Mahavir (JV) (Indian)	Gherzi Eastern (Indian)	4 Laned
78.	Morena-Rairu Km 85.0-km 103.0 (Madhya Pradesh)	3	18	Aug 2001	Feb 2005	NHAI	Backbone Projects (Indian)	Gherzi Eastern (Indian)	Under Implementation
79.	Gundia Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Km 464.0 to km 474 and Shivarampalli to Thondapalli km 9.20 - km 22.30 (Andhra Pradesh)	7	23.1	Sep 2001	Jan 2005	NHAI	You One-Maharia (Korean-Indian JV)	Span Consultants (Indian)	Under Implementation
80.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalili Km 539 km-556 and six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal km 527-km 535	7	25	Sep 2001	Mar 2005	NHAI	Afcon Infrastructure Ltd. (Indian)	ICT (P) Ltd. (Indian)	Under Implementation
81.	Thumpipedi to Salem km 180.0 to km 199.2 (Tamil Nadu)	7	19.2	Sep 2001	Jan 2005	NHAI	Bhageeratha Engg. Ltd. (Indian)	Mukesh Ass. (Indian)	Under Implementation
82.	Bangalore - Salem - Madurai Km 248.0 - km 259.6) Namimakal bypass of NH-7 (Tamil Nadu)	7	84	Sep 2001	Apr 2004	NHAI	Vijay Engg. Enterprises	Nag Infrastructure Indian	4 Laned
83.	Angamali to Aluva Km 332.6 to km 316.7 Kerala	47	16.6	Sep 2001	Jun 2004	NHAI	Tantia - Techni Bharti (JV) (Indian)	Sheladia Ass (USA)	4 Laned
On Port Connectivity									
84.	Port Connectivity to Mormugoa NH - 17 B (Goa)	178	13	Apr 2001	Jun 2004	SPV	BRO (Through a MoU between BRO and Mormugoa Port Road Co. Ltd.) (Indian)	Stup Consultants (Indian)	4 Laned
85.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Port (Phase I) (Maharashtra)	48 & 4	30	Feb 2002	Dec 2004	SPV	Thakur - Mhatre-unity (JV) (Indian)	Stup Consultants (Indian)	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Other Projects								
86.	Nandigama-Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)	9	35	Aug 2001	May 2004	BOT	CIDB Malaysia (Malaysian)	LBGI (USA)	4 Laned
	On Golden Quadrilateral								
1.	Panagarh - Palsit Km 517-km 581 West Bengal	2	64.457	Jun 2002	Jun 2005	Annuity	Gamuda Malaysia -WCT Malaysia Malaysian	Halcrow Ltd. UK	Under Implementation
2.	Palsit - Dankuni Km 581 - km 646 (Durgapur Expressway) West Bengal	2	65	Oct 2002	Jun 2005	Annuity	Consortium of Gomuda (Malaysia & WCT Engineering (Malaysia)	Doreh Consultant Germany	Under Implementation
3.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach West Bengal	2	6	Sept 2002	Apr 2006	BOT	SVBTG Consortium of AIDC group (USA), STRADC (Philippines) Philippines - USA	M/s Schlaich Bergmann and Partner Germany	Under Implementation
4.	Ankapalli-Tuni Km 359.2 - km 300 Andhra Pradesh	5	58.947	May 2002	Dec 2004	Annuity	GMR-Tuni-Ankapalli Express Ltd. Indian-Malaysian JV	Dorsch Consultant Germany	Under Implementation
5.	Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16) Km 300-km 253 Andhra Pradesh	5	47	May 2002	Feb 2005	Annuity	Andhra Expressway Limited Indian	Zaidun Leeng Malaysia	Under Implementation
6.	Dharmavaram- Rajahmundry (AP-15) Km 253 - km 200 Andhra Pradesh	5	53	May 2002	Nov 2004	Annuity	Rajahmundry Expressway Ltd.- Gammon (JV) Indian	Zaidun Leeng Malaysia	Under Implementation
7.	Nellore Bypass Km 178.2 Km 161 Andhra Pradesh	5	17.166	Oct 2002	Sep 2004	Annuity	Consortium of Sorna Enterprises & Navayuga Engg. Co. Ltd. Indian	M/s. Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick India Pvt. Ltd.	4 Laned
8.	Katraj Realignment (PS-4) Km 825 - km 30 of Bypass Maharashtra	4	9	Nov 2002	Jun 2005	NHAI	M/s Shakti Kurnam M. Sanchehi Ltd. Indian	U.K. SPAN Consultants- Symonds (JV) Indian	Under Implementation
9	Maharashtra Border - Belgaum Km 592-km 515 Karnataka	4	77	Jun 2002	Oct 2004	Annuity	North Karnataka Expressway Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of IL & FS - Punj Lloyd - CTNL) Indian	Sir Owen William- Frischmann-Prabhu UK-India	4 Laned
10.	Belgaum-Dharwad Km 495 - km 433 Karnataka	4	62	April 2002	Dec 2005	NHAI	Sunway Construction - Berhad & R N Shetty & Co. Malaysian - Indian JV	Roughton Int'l. Ltd. -CEG India UK-India	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Tumkur-Neelmangala Km 62 - km 28.5 Karnataka	4	32.5	Jun - 2002	Dec - 2003	BOT	Jas Toll Road Co. Ltd. (Consortium of Jayaswals-Ashoka Buildcon-SERI Intl.) Indian	Zaidun Leeng-Artifact Projects	4 Laned
12.	Haldia Port NH-41 (from Kolaghat on NH-6 to Haldia) Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase I West Bengal	41	53	Sep - 2002	Dec - 2005	SPV	CWHEC - HCIL (JV) Chinese-Indian	M/S CES (I) Ltd. Indian	Under Implementation
13.	Vishakapatnam Port Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase I Andhra Pradesh	SR	12	Jun - 2002	Dec - 2005	SPV	M/s. M. Venkata Rao Engineering Indian	M/s Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. Indian	Under Implementation
14.	Delhi-Gurgaon Section (Access Controlled 8/6 Lane) Km 14.3-km 42 Delhi (9.7)Maharyana (18)	8	27.7	Apr - 2002	Dec - 2005	BOT	M/s Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.-DS Constt. Ltd. Indian	M/s Rifles-Sheladia-LR Kadiyali (JV) Independent Consultant	Under Implementation
15.	Tambaram-Tindivanam Km 26-km 121 Tamil Nadu	45	93	May - 2002	Nov - 2004	Annuity	Tambaram-Tindivanam Express way Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of GMR Consortium & UE Malaysia) India - Malaysian JV	To be appointed	Under Implementation
Contracts Awarded During year 2003-2004									
On Golden Quadrilateral									
1.	Pune-Khed Km 12.9 to 42 Maharashtra	50	30	Aug - 2003	Aug - 2005	BOT	M/s. ATR Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. Indian		Under Implementation
2.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge) Km 158 - km 159.02 Contract III B of Khage-Varanasi Uttar Pradesh	2	1.02	Sep - 2003	Mar - 2006	WB	Larsen & Turbo Ltd. Indian	Scetauroute, Frishman Prabhu France-India	Under Implementation
3.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh (6 Lane) Km 273.5-Km 363.885 (Rigid : Nil, Flexible : 90.385) Rajasthan	8	90.38	Apr-2003	Dec - 2004	BOT	Consortium of GVK International BSCPL Indian	BCEOM French Engineering Consultant French	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Himatnagar Chioda (Near Ahmedabad) (UG-IV) km 443 to km 495 Gujarat	8	52	Jun - 2003	Aug - 2005	NHAI	M/s Backbone- Tarmat-NG (JV) Indian	STUP Consultants Ltd.- Bangladesh Const. India-Bangladesh	Under Implementation
5.	Lucknow- Kanpur (EW/3) km 59.5-km 75.5 Uttar Pradesh	25	16	Dec - 2003	May - 2005	NHAI	Vilayati Ram Mittal Indian		Under Implementation
6.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS/30) km 286 to km 303.8 Jammu and Kashmir	1A	17.8	Nov - 2003	May - 2006	NHAI	PBA Infrastructure Ltd. Indian		Under Implementation
7.	Kanniyakumari- Panagudi (NS/32) km 203 to km 233.6 Tamil Nadu	7	30.6	Mar - 2004	Sept - 2006	NHAI	M/s PBA Infrastructure Ltd. Indian		Under Implementation
8.	Tuticorin Port NH-7A (Tuticorin- Tirunelveli section) Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase-II Tamil Nadu	7A	47.2	Feb - 2004	Aug - 2006	SPV	Mecon - Gea Energy System (I) Ltd. (JV) Indian	M/s BCEOM French Engg. Consultant & Nag Infrastructure Ltd. French-Indian	Under Implementation
9.	Paradip Port NH-5A (from km 0 to km 77) Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase II Orissa	5A	77	Feb - 2004	Feb - 2007	SPV	M/s Hindustan Construction Company Indian	Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd. Indian	Under Implementation
10.	Cochin Port Km 348/382-km 358/750 Including 5 Major Bridges Road Connectivity to Major Ports Phase II Kerala	47	10	Feb - 2004	Aug - 2006	SPV	M/s Mecon - GEA Energy System (I) Ltd. (JV)	Dalal - Mott McDonald in association with Arch Consultancy Indian	Under Implementation
11.	Addl. 2-Lane Bridge Over Rapti River at Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh	28	0	Mar - 2004	Mar - 2006	* NHAI	UPSCB Indian		Under Implementation

Statement-II

National Highways Authority of India
Project Expenditure Statement for October, 2004

(Rupee in Crore)

Stretch	Cumulative Expenditure up to 2003-04	During 2004-05			Grand Total
		During April to Sept., 2004	During October, 2004	Total for (April to October, 2004	
(A) Expenditure on Projects					
(i) NHDP PH-I					
- GQ Projects	16408.26	2191.32	477.34	2668.65	19076.91
- NSEW Projects	1933.24	130.16	10.96	141.12	2074.36
- Projects other than GQ & NSEW	1442.84	136.66	13.46	150.12	1592.96
Sub Total (i)	19784.34	2458.14	501.46	2959.89	22744.23
(ii) NHDP PH-II					
-NSEW projects	87.20	55.55	2.87	58.42	145.61
-Other than NSEW Projects	14.32	10.02	3.29	13.31	27.63
Sub (Total) (ii)	101.52	65.57	6.16	71.73	173.23
(iii) NHDP PH - III					
Sub Total (iii)	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.30
(iv) Miscellaneous expenditure on projects and PIU releases					
Sub Total (iv)	953.91	-225.19	80.84	-144.36	809.56
Total expenditure ((A)=(i) to (iv))	20839.77	2298.51	589.05	2887.56	23727.33
(B) Interest and repayment of GOI Loan/Market Borrowings					
Total expenditure on projects including servicing of market borrowing/loan (A+B)	22614.60	3042.67	589.05	3631.72	26246.32
(C) Maintenance of Highways					
Sub Total (C)	937.02	102.46	32.03	134.47	1071.49
Grand Total Expenditure (A+B+C)	23551.62	3145.12	621.08	3766.19	27317.81

[Translation]

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

Medical Facilities to Elders

106. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide medical facilities to the elders under one umbrella;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Health Centres proposed to be opened; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) to (d) In view of the above, the questions do not arise.

Nursing Colleges

107. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nursing colleges/institutes in the country at present, state-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals lying pending with the Indian Nursing Council for approval;

(c) the details of the action taken in regard to the aforesaid matter;

(d) State-wise number of trained nurse required in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh during the next five years; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure availability of trained nurses to meet the requirement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) A statement showing in the number of Nursing Colleges/Institutes as on 31st March 2004, state-wise is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) According to the Indian Nursing Council, twenty-four proposals, as per details given below, are pending with the Council:

(i)	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife:	1
(ii)	General Nursing & Midwifery:	22
(iii)	Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	1

The Council has already scheduled inspection for assessing the required facilities in the above institutions for grant of approval.

(d) and (e) The data regarding requirement of trained nurses state-wise is not maintained centrally as it depends on various factors such as availability of beds, types of services provided in the healthcare institutions in the States. However, there are over 1000 nursing educational institutions in the country producing about 40,000 trained nurses every year. The central Government also assists the state governments in establishing/upgrading the schools/colleges of nursing.

Statement

State wise distribution of Nursing Institutions Approved/Recognized by the Indian Nursing Council as on 31.03.2004

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	ANM	GNM	DNEA	B.Sc (N)	P.B.B. Sc. (N)	M.Sc. (N)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	101	-	51	-	-
2.	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland	9	15	-	2	-	-
3.	Bihar and Jharkhand	23	13	-	-	-	-
4.	Gujarat	2	20	-	2	-	-
5.	Haryana	9	13	-	1	-	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	4	-	-	-	-
7.	Karnataka	4	164	-	90	15	16
8.	Kerala	14	78	1	8	1	1
9.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	7	21	2	15	3	1
10.	Maharashtra and Goa	16	50	1	10	6	2
11.	Mizoram	2	4	-	1	-	-
12.	Orissa	15	7	-	1	1	-
13.	Punjab, Delhi and J and K	28	75	1	19	4	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Rajasthan	8	47	-	3	-	-
15.	Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry	8	54	-	45	6	15
16.	Tripura	-	2	-	-	-	-
17.	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	30	27	-	2	-	-
18.	West Bengal and Sikkim	20	26	-	2	-	1
19.	Mid India Board	4	4	1	-	-	-
20.	South India Board	3	16	-	2	1	2
21.	Armed Forces Medical Service	-	6	-	-	-	-
Total		235	747	6	254	37	40

(The figures in respect of Bihar - 1998, Orissa - 2001, Mizoram - 2001, Haryana - 2001, Gujarat - December 2002)

List of Abbreviations Used :

ANM : Auxiliary Nurse Midwife

GNM : General Nursing & Midwifery

DNEA : Diploma in Nursing Education and Administration

B.Sc. (N) : Bachelor of Science in Nursing

P.B.B.Sc. (N) : Post Basic Bachelor of Science in Nursing

M.Sc. (N) : Master of Science in Nursing

[English]

**Exemption of Customs Duty on
Medical Equipments**

108. SHRIMATI D. PURNADESWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government gives part exemption of customs duty on M.R.I. equipments imported by corporate Hospitals;

(b) whether such concessions are denied when such equipments are imported for rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concessions/exemptions proposed to be given to M.R.I. and other costly imported equipments for use in clinics/dispensaries or hospitals in rural areas to help the poor villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system attracts a concessional custom duty of 5%. MRI system is also exempt from excise duty and thereby from additional duty of customs (CVD). These concessions/exemptions are available to any importer of MRI system.

(d) A large number of life saving, sight, saving ENT, dental and other medical equipment are already allowed concessional custom duty. A concessional custom duty of 5% with nil CVD is also available to hospital equipment (including MRI system) if imported by hospitals run by Central Government, State Government, Union Territories or any local authority or by a hospital run by a society controlled by such Authorities. No further custom duty concession/exemption for MRI or other costly imported equipment are presently under consideration of Ministry of Finance.

[Translation]

Indian Ambassadors Abroad

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

(a) the total number of Indian ambassadors working in different countries as on date, category-wise and country-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Indian ambassadors lying vacant in different countries and the time by when these posts are likely to be filled;

(c) the details regarding since when these posts are lying vacant, country-wise; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selecting personnel of IFS, IAS or any other service for the said posts alongwith the number of such personnel sent abroad so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) At present, there are 108 Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners in different countries, and the details country-wise and category-wise, are placed in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The posts of Ambassadors/High Commissioners are vacant in Jordan (1st December, 2003), Cote 'D' Ivoire (30th June, 2004), Oman (7th August, 2004), Canada (1st September, 2004), Uganda (27th August, 2004) and Fiji (6th November, 2004). It is expected that these posts would be filled by February 2005.

[The posts have been vacant from the date indicated in the brackets above]

(d) The Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. At present, 101 officers belonging to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) have been posted as Ambassadors/High Commissioners. There are 7 Non-Career diplomats presently serving as Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners.

Statement

List of Countries where Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are posted as on November 24, 2004

S.No.	Grade	Name of Countries where Indian Ambassadors/High Commissioners are presently posted.	Total
1.	Grade I of IFS	Ambassadors - Argentina, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Russian Federation, Soudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, USA. High Commissioners - Bangladesh, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, U.K.	31
2.	Grade II of IFS	Ambassadors - Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Colombia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, Qatar, Serbia & Montenegro, Vietnam. High Commissioners - Australia, Cyprus, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka	21
3.	Grade III of IFS	Ambassadors - Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Isarel, Kazakhstan, Korea (North), Kuwait Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe. High Commissioners - Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Guyana, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Papua New Guines, Seychelles, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Zambia.	56

[English]

Employment Generation by KVIC

110. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has proposed to generate employment for over one crore persons during 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the employment opportunities whcih KVIC proposes to generate in Karnataka;

(d) the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Against the target of 5 lakh persons, additional employment opportunities were generated for 4.71 lakh persons in the country under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP),

implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), during 2003-04.

(c) and (d) During the year 2004-05, the target for generating self-employment opportunities in Karnataka under the REGP is of 33075 persons, through; provision of margin money assistance of Rs. 1429.34 lakh in 1654 projects. This is supplemented by KVIC activities like organising Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), exhibitions, workshops, awareness camps, etc.

(e) The KVIC has communicated the targets under the REGP to the State Office of the KVIC and the State Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) of Karnataka. The allocated funds are released periodically through the State Office of KVIC and the KVIB. The progress of the programme is reviewed regularly by the KVIC and the Union Government to ensure smooth implementation.

[English]

Construction of By-Pass Roads in Rajasthan

111. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Rajasthan Government for construction of by-pass roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has submitted proposals for construction of By-passes at Barighata town on National Highways-14 near Sirohi, Kota-Bhilwara section on National Highways - 12 and Jaipur city on ring road.

(c) The work on the above By-passes can be taken up after sanction of the project subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority of works.

[English]

Discontinuation of Coin Box Facility

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that coin box for mobile connectivity has been discontinued in rural

parts of the country due to a recent notification by the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to restart this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, no such notification has been issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. However, as per present policy coin box to mobile connectivity is permissible only in places which have Point of Interconnect with cellular network and are also Long Distance Charging Centre. This policy is for rural and urban both.

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

Restructuring of KVIC

113. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to restructure the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has dissolved the Khadi and Village Industries Commission on 14th October 2004, and established the authority titled the Commissioner for Khadi and Village Industries who has been given the powers and functions entrusted to the Commission.

The Government has also decided to set up an Expert Committee to examine the structure, functioning and performance of the KVIC and to recommend measures to revamp the KVIC. The Committee shall, inter alia, review the KVIC Act, 1956 (61 of 1956), KVIC Rules, 1957 and the Regulations made thereunder and recommend restructuring alongwith modifications, if any, in these statutes to achieve the objectives of (i) development of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI), and (ii) making KVIC a more professional and effective body for implementation of the existing KVI programmes/schemes and/or launching new programmes/schemes with a view to enhancing employment and income generation in the rural areas and expanding the markets for (including export of) Khadi and Village Industries products.

Proposal to Set up Alumina Plant in Orissa

114. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals under the consideration of the Government to set up Aluminium/Alumina and Nickel extraction plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof including employment potential of these plants;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to provide employment to the families whose land has been/likely to be acquired for establishment of these plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The Government had on 26.10.2004 approved the 2nd phase expansion of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Orissa a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. The details of the proposed expansion are as under :-

Sector	Installed capacity	Capacity after 2nd Phase Expansion
Bauxite Mine (TPY)*	48,00,000	63,00,000
Alumina Refinery (TPY)	15,75,000	21,00,000
Aluminium Smelter (TPY)	3,45,000	4,60,000
Captive Power Plant (MW)	960	1200

*Tonnes per year

(d) and (e) Since the expansion is envisaged within the existing premises, no fresh land acquisition is necessary involving displacement of families.

Loans for Setting up Agro and Rural Industries in WB

115. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in rural areas in obtaining loans from Nationalized Banks for setting up Agro and Rural Industries in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce a scheme for the disbursement of loans to the needy without procedural wrangles by the nearest Nationalized Banks; and

(c) if so, the details of financial support provided for setting up Agro and Rural Industries at Present in West Bengal, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), which is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with loan funding from nationalized banks and margin money support from the Central Government, is functioning satisfactorily in West Bengal. The result of an evaluation study, conducted in 2003, on the REGP units in West Bengal, has revealed that 98 per cent of sample enterprises reported release of loan by the banks within three months of sanction.

(b) The Central Government has been implementing the REGP throughout the country, including West Bengal. In order to avoid any procedural wrangles for the entrepreneurs assisted under the REGP, margin money assistance at the prescribed rates is placed in advance at the disposal of the participating public sector scheduled commercial banks which are authorized to sanction individual self-employment projects under the REGP costing upto Rs. 25 lakh, without prior approval of the KVIC. The entrepreneurs can approach the nearest public sector bank branch for availing of loans under the REGP. This procedure helps ensure, as far as practicable, hassle-free disbursement of loan to the entrepreneurs.

(c) During the financial year 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 1593.51 lakh has been released to West Bengal towards margin money assistance, against which a total loan of Rs. 3983.76 lakh is estimated to have been provided by the nationalized banks to the eligible entrepreneurs.

During the financial year 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 1492 lakh has been allocated to the State towards margin money assistance to help, in turn, sanction of about Rs. 3730 lakh as loans from the nationalized banks. The District-wise distribution of margin money in the West Bengal for the year 2004-05 is given below :-

Sl.No.	District	Margin Money allocated for the year 2004-05 (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Bankura	72.00
2.	Birbhum	93.00
3.	Burdwan	90.00
4.	Cooch Behar	70.00

1	2	3
5.	Darjeeling	53.00
6.	Hooghly	60.00
7.	Howrah	75.00
8.	Jalpaiguri	85.00
9.	Malda	110.00
10.	Midnapur (East)	91.00
11.	Midnapur (West)	85.00
12.	Murshidabad	95.00
13.	Nadia	90.00
14.	Purulia	80.00
15.	Dinajpur (North)	94.00
16.	Dinajpur (South)	64.00
17.	24 Parghanas (North)	93.00
18.	24 Parghanas (South)	92.00
Total		1492.00

[Translation]

Cellone and Pre-Paid Connections

116. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that consumers are not getting Cellone and pre-paid connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Sidharth Nagar, Gorakhpur, Basti, Ajamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur and Gonda districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by when these cell-one and pre-paid connections are likely to be made available to the consumers on demand by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Post paid Cellone connections are available on demand and there is a waiting for pre-paid Connections in Sidharth Nagar, Gorakpur, Basti, Ajamgarh, Maau, Jaunpur and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh due to high demand and network capacity constraints.

(c) Post-paid Cellular connections are already

available on demand. BSNL has placed Purchase order for increasing the capacity of the network in Uttar Pradesh including for the districts mentioned above and it is expected that Pre-paid Cellone connections will be made available on demand to the customers during the year 2005.

[English]

Ban on Indian Imports by Bangladesh

117. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has threatened a ban on Indian imports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the quantum of loss likely to be suffered as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Speaking at the inaugural session of the "India-Bangladesh Dialogue of Young Journalists" in Dhaka on Sep 7, 2004, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Morshed Khan is reported to have said that "if Dhaka wanted to establish a win-win situation, we could end India's US \$ 3 billion trade by issuing an SRO (Statutory Regulatory Order) on all Indians goods entering Bangladesh."

The Bangladesh Government has not promulgated any such order to this effect.

(b) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh issued a press release on Sep 11, 2004 stating that the remarks of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister were aimed at creating awareness among the young journalists on India and Bangladesh about the issues that govern Bangladesh-India relations and should be seen as such. The press release also said that the young journalists would understand the issues in their right perspective and would look at them dispassionately and objectively.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Tax Chargeable Under Suggested Retail Price

118. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 5597 dated September 29, 2001 regarding working of Kendriya Bhandar and state:

- (a) whether Suggested Retail Price (SRP) includes all taxes and no other tax is chargeable on the SRP;
- (b) if so, the reasons for charging sales tax, freight etc. extra on the SRP by the Kendriya Bhandar;
- (c) whether the sales tax, freight etc. charged extra to SRP justifies the higher prices charged from the customers;
- (d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter;
- (e) whether the Kendriya Bhandar could not justify the Rs. 83,000/- to Rs. 85,000/- as the price of the computer given in the annexure to the question under reference; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (d) Kendriya Bhandar has informed that Suggested Retail Price (SRP) includes CST of 8% but does not include elements of Local Sales Tax (LST) and other levies which are charged extra.

(e) and (f) The position regarding sale of computers by Kendriya Bhandar at the rate of Rs. 83,000/- has been explained in the Statement annexed to the reply to USQ No. 5597 dated 29.8.2001.

[Translation]

Morarji Desai Yoga Centre

119. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any fee has been charged for the training conducted recently at the Morarji Desai Yoga Centre;
- (b) if so, whether any special facility has been provided/increased for Yoga trainees/patients admitted there for their treatment through Yoga;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the decision taken in the General Body meeting of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi held on 23.9.2004, a nominal fee of Rs. 100/- p.m. is to be charged for short-term yoga training course. Accordingly, fee has been charged for the training conducted recently. The infrastructural facilities created in the MDNIY include Kriya Block with provisions for modernized Shatkarma (Yoga cleansing practices) facilities; fully air-conditioned Meditation Hall; fully air conditioned Library; free lectures on each aspects of yoga, improved public utility/convenience service and change rooms, clean and green environment etc.

- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Rural Tele-Density

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that rural tele-density has not been achieved as proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan and is lagging far behind in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone services in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the specific objectives envisaged for the Ninth Plan was to provide universal coverage or telephone on demand, in general. This has not been possible for the rural areas, in particular, mainly because of paucity of funds and operators perception of non-viability of rural telephony. However, the rural tele-density has increased from 0.41% in March, 1997 to 1.20% in March 2002. The tele-density in rural areas as on 30.9.2004 has reached a level of 1.66%.

(b) Rules have been framed under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003, for providing subsidy support by USO Fund for the growth of telecom facilities in rural areas. The Rules provide for the provision of Public and Information Services in the form of a Village Public Telephone in every revenue villages as per Census 2001 and additional public telephone in every revenue village where population exceeds 2000. A non-lapsable Universal Obligation Fund has been created to support rural telephony. The fund is in operation since 01.04.2002.

Subsidy support is being provided from USO Fund for all (about 86 lakhs) rural house-hold Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) installed prior to 1-4-2002 as per rules. For the rural household DELs in net cost positive SDCAs installed after 1.4.2002, the procedures for inviting bids for providing subsidy support under the relevant Rules have already been initiated.

Indiscriminate Telephone Tariff

121. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints from telephone subscribers regarding indiscriminate Telephone tariff and collecting of rent in rural areas at urban rates; and

(b) if so, 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) Yes, Sir. Some complaints are received.

(b) TRAI has prescribed rental and call charges for Rural subscribers which shall be offered to subscribers by all service providers. The classification of areas into Urban and Rural for charging of monthly telephone rentals has been made as per the Census Report of 2001, which is consistent with the tariff policy specified in the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999. The service providers are, however, at liberty to provide alternative tariff plans with different combinations of rentals and call charges. However, if any case of wrong charging comes to notice, immediate action is taken to correct the error and bills revised by BSNL.

National Road Safety Policy

122. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR :

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

- (a) the status of the National Road Safety Policy;
- (b) whether the National Road Safety Policy drafted in 1992 is still under consideration of the Government; and
- (c) the number of casualties occurred and the economic loss incurred as a result of road accidents in the country since 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The National Road Safety Policy drafted in 1992 was endorsed by the National Road Safety Council in its meeting held on 22.12.1994.

(c) Planning Commission had assessed the social cost of road accidents in the country in the year 1999-2000 at Rs. 55,000 crores. As per information available, the total number of fatalities in our country on account of road accidents since 1992 is as per details enclosed as statement.

Statement

Number of fatalities on All Roads

Year	number of fatalities
1	2
1992	60,113
1993	60,380
1994	64,463

1	2
1995	70,781
1996	74,665
1997	76,977
1998	79,919
1999	81,966
2000	78,911
2001	80,888
2002	84,674

Traffic Movement on N.H. 202

123. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Highway No. 202 connecting Hyderabad, Bhopalpatnam is not linked by bridge over Godavari and due to which traffic movement is severely affected;
- (b) whether RIGHTS is delaying the missing link;
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in conducting the survey;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for funding the project by the Japanese Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Illegal Bangladeshi Migrants Obtaining Passports

124. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of several illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the country securing

Indian Passports by using ration cards and below poverty line cards as residential proof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has adopted any foolproof method to ensure that illegal Bangladeshi migrants are not issued passports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) Passports are not issued only on the basis of ration cards but also after receipt of a clear police verification report which inter-alia establishes the applicant's identity and Indian nationality. However, Government has received information of a few cases of illegal Bangladeshi migrants fraudulently obtaining Indian Passports. These are immediately revoked and the concerned police authorities requested to re-verify their nationality.

Smuggling of Medicines

125. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of smuggling of medicines in Government Hospitals in Delhi and other parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action/proposed to be taken against those found involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to ensure that no incidence of smuggling of medicines takes place in their hospitals. However, in so far the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no incidence of smuggling of medicines has been reported from Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC and associated Hospitals.

Indian Assistance to Iraq to Conduct Elections

126. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations has requested the

Union Government for assistance of the Election Commission officials in conducting the elections in Iraq scheduled for next year; and

(b) if so, the details and the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) The United Nations has sought the services of an official of the Election Commission, on deputation for work in Iraq in connection with the elections scheduled in January next year. Decision on the request of assistance has been deferred in view of the prevailing security situation in Iraq.

Four Laning and Six Laning of NHs in Kerala

127. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided all the National Highways passing through Kerala will soon be made into Highways with four lanes and in some cases six lanes;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the expenditure involved;

(c) the position of land acquisition thereof by the State Government;

(d) the priorities fixed for the implementation of the projects; and

(e) the time by which the work will start and the date by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. At present is no such proposal. However, development and upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process. Widening of any National Highway to four or six lanes depends upon the requirements of traffic, availability of funds and inter-se priority of works.

[Translation]

Appointment of Lokayukt

128. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines to appoint "Lokayukt" to all the states;

(b) if so, the details of the States which have appointed and not appointed "Lokayukt" till date;

(c) whether His Excellency President in the "Eighth All India Conference of Indian Lokayukt" has emphasized to bring about transparency in public life,

strengthening the institution of Lokayukt to check the corruption and to bring all high constitutional offices including President under the purview of this institutional;

- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has taken or purpose to take effective steps in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) No guidelines have been issued since the appointment of the Lokayuktas is the concern of the respective State Governments.

- (b) This information is not maintained centrally.
- (c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Delay in Payment of Compensation

129. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the inordinate delay in paying the compensation to the persons whose land is acquired by these coal companies;
- (b) if so, the number of pending cases for the payment of compensation, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to expedite the payment of compensation particularly by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) in Orissa?

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. There have been at times inordinate delay in paying the compensation to the persons/legal heirs whose land is acquired by coal companies.

- (b) The number of pending cases for payment of compensation of land, State-wise is as under :-

S.No.	State	No. of Cases
1.	Jharkhand	1911
2.	West Bengal	162
3.	Maharashtra	247
4.	Madhya Pradesh	525
5.	Orissa	71

(c) In Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, in many of the pending cases, the persons whose land had been acquired are not available in their respective villages at the addresses given to the company as per record. Efforts are being made to locate the correct present addresses so that payment can be made without delay. In such cases notice for receiving compensation has also been published in the local newspapers. If even then landowners fail to receive the compensation within the stipulated time, compensation is deposited into Coal Bearing Areas Tribunal.

Proposal for New Industrial Schemes

130. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposal for some new industrial schemes have recently been submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to be included in the current Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether the said schemes are still pending for approval; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

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

- (b) to (d) Does not apply.

[Translation]

Action Plan on Bio-Technology

131. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to sanction an action-plan on Bio-Technology in the country as reported in the Hindi daily *Navbharat Times* dated August 11, 2004;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide improved seeds with the help of this technology;
- (c) if so, the effects of said action plan on small farmers;
- (d) the names of the States likely to be included in the said action plan;
- (e) whether the farmers of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are likely to be included in the said action plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. However, at present the Government is in the process of evolving a National Biotechnology Policy covering the relevant sectors.

(b) The Government is already supporting research programmes to improve the productivity of various crops with the help of this technology. As improved seeds are developed through research, the Government would consider to provide these to farmers after assessing their agronomical advantages and evaluating biosafety in collaboration with concerned Ministries.

(c) In general, the technology is likely to benefit small as well as big farmers in scaleneutral mode.

(d) to (f) Since no Action Plan has been formulated, the States to be covered can not be identified as yet. However, the improved seeds when available shall be accessible to all the relevant States.

Damage to National Highways in Haryana

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that National Highways have been damaged severely due to heavy rains in Haryana;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to repair and restore the National Highways in Haryana;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to repair the National Highways falling in Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some sections of the National Highways in Haryana have been damaged due to rains.

(b) The damaged sections have been restored and the road are in traffic worthy condition.

(c) and (d) Ministry of allocated Rs. 35.00 lakh for restoration of damages due to rains and in addition Rs. 347.00 lakhs under Ordinary Repairs for maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Haryana entrusted to State PWD. Besides this, NHAI has also incurred an expenditure

of Rs. 3.58 lakhs for restoration of rain damages on the National Highways in Haryana, which have been entrusted to them.

[English]

UFO Sighting

133. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during a recent scientific expedition in Himachal Pradesh, a Scientist of the ISRO's Space Application Centre sighted an unidentified flying object (UFO) and took photographs of the object;

(b) if so, whether the photographs of the floating object have been analysed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the UFO is suspected to be an espionage device; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto stating the suspected place of its origin?

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

(b) to (e) A team of scientists from ISRO and the Government college, Dharmashala were at the Samudra Tapu glacial region, near Chandra Tal, Lahaul and Spiti District, Himachal Pradesh for an expedition to study the glacial retreat, when they sighted one unidentified object of 3-4 feet size, which had a set of balloons attached to it. The object was moving down the mountain slope with ease, and later retreated vertically to the ridge top and moved upwards in the air. After hovering over the camp site for a few minutes, the object finally moved towards north and disappeared. The total duration of appearance of the body was about 40 minutes. The incident was later reported to the Police and Military authorities concerned. The object was photographed, but being at a very high altitude, the exact nature of the device could not be concluded.

Contempt Petitions against Senior Officers

134. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several officers at the senior ranks including that of Secretary to Government are facing contempt petitions in different High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the officials and the nature of complaints field/pending against them; and

(c) the year-wise details of Court strictures issued condemning officers in contempt petitions since 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (c) The contempt petitions filed against officers at the senior ranks including that of Secretaries to Government of India and State Governments on matters concerning them are defended by the concerned officers or their concerned administrative Ministries and Departments. Information about such cases pending all over India in different High Courts are not monitored centrally.

[Translation]

Constitution of Regulatory Authority

135. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a regulatory authority for transport sector with a view to monitor and bring reforms in all the systems of transportation including road, railway, civil aviation and shipping;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to constitute a Regulatory Authority for transport sector with a view to monitor and bring reforms in all the systems of transportation including road, railway, civil aviation and shipping.

In road transport sector, State Governments are empowered to constitute State Transport Authorities under Section 68 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. States and UTs have constituted State Transport Authorities who act as regulator for road transport.

Similarly, in port sector, Tariff Regulatory Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) has been set up in the year 1997 under Major Port Trust Act, 1963 to provide fair and cost based tariff structure at the major ports.

Ministry of Railways have indicated that although it was decided to set up a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority in the year 2003, they have felt that it is not appropriate to set up the Authority at the current juncture.

As per information available from Ministry of Civil Aviation, a Civil Aviation Policy is under formulation which inter-alia would cover the aspect of Regulatory Authority.

Credit to SSI Sector

136. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total credit made available to small scale industries in terms of percentage of production from 1991-92 to 2003-04 by the Central Government;

(b) whether the credit provided to small scale industries is less than their credit requirement and the reasons for such a huge gap;

(c) whether the Government has constituted the Kapoor Committee and the Committee has submitted the report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the implemented recommendations of Kapoor Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The credit facilities to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) are provided by the Primary Lending Institutions including the Commercial Banks. The details of loans advanced to the SSIs by the Public Sector Banks vis-a-vis production of the SSIs (at current prices) in terms of percentage from 1991-92 to 2003-04 is given at the enclosed statement. The advances to the SSI sector from Public Sector banks have increased from Rs. 17,398 crore as at the end of March, 1992 to Rs. 58,277 crore as at the end of March 2004. In the context of target of growth in the SSI sector, the quantum of credit flow can not be considered as adequate. The reasons for inadequate credit flow to the SSI sector are high cost of credit, collateral requirements, elaborate procedural requirements, etc. due to which large number of SSI/tiny units are unable to access the required credit facilities from the Banks.

(c) to (e) In December, 1997 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a One-Man Committee headed by Shri S.L. Kapur, the then Member, Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to inter alia review the working of the system of credit delivery to the small scale industries and make suggestions on simplification and improvements in systems and procedures. The committee submitted its report to the RBI on 30th June, 1998 which contained 126 recommendations. The major recommendations of the Committee have already been accepted and implemented

by banks/other agencies, which inter alia include delegation of more powers to branch managers of banks; simplification of application forms; opening of more Specialised SSI branches by banks; enhancement of the limit of composite loans; banks to pay more attention to the backward states;

special programmes for training of branch managers; banks to make customer grievances machinery more transparent and simplify the procedures for handling complaints and monitoring thereof, etc.

Statement

Advances to the SSIs from the Public Sector Banks vis-a-vis production by the SSIs (at current prices)

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Production by the SSIs (at current prices)	Advances to SSI (outstanding at the end of March)	Percentage of advances to SSI, vis-a-vis production of the SSIs
1991-92	73,072	17,398	23.8
1992-93	85,581	19,388	22.7
1993-94	98,804	21,561	21.8
1994-95	1,22,210	25,843	21.1
1995-96	1,48,290	29,482	19.9
1996-97	1,68,413	31,542	18.7
1997-98	1,89,178	38,109	20.1
1998-99	2,12,901	42,674	20.0
1999-2000	2,34,255	45,788	19.5
2000-01	2,61,289	48,445	18.5
2001-02	2,82,270	49,743	17.6
2002-03	3,11,993	52,988	17.0
2003-04	3,57,733	58,277(P)	16.3

(P) : Provisional

[English]

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Working of WLL Telephones

137. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the WLL telephones in the country particularly Uttaranchal are not working properly;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to provide better facility of WLL telephones;

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

Assessing Maternity Cost

138. SHRI M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a survey to assess the maternity cost one has to incur on

normal delivery of a child and in the case of cesarean delivery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the maternity expenses and related hospitalization charges like room rent, pre-delivery expenses, cost of check-up, expenses on abortion or miscarriage are covered under the mediclaim policies issued by the private operators and the Government insurance companies;

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

(e) the steps taken to extend the maternity benefits to all women under the mediclaim policies in view of the risk elements involved in maternity cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Computerisation of Post Offices in West Bengal

139. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices computerized in West Bengal, district-wise and location-wise;

(b) the details of Government Plan to computerize the rest of the post offices, district-wise; and

(c) the time period by which the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of Post Offices which have been provided with computers, district-wise and location wise, in West Bengal are given in statement enclosed.

(b) As per the Tenth Plan, all Head Post Offices and large Sub-Post Offices located in the different districts of West Bengal would be computerized by the end of the Plan.

(c) Computerisation of Post Offices as an on-going process and Post Offices having relatively high traffic and counter operations are being taken up for computerization in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds. Post Offices as mentioned at (b) above are proposed to be computerized by 2006-2007.

Statement

Number of Post Offices computerised in West Bengal (District-wise and location wise)

Sl.No.	Name of District	No.	Location (Name of Post Office)
1	2	3	4
1.	24 Parganas (North)	6	Barasat, Ashoknagar, Barrackpur, Basirhat, Belghoria, Bongaon
2.	24 Parganas (South)	3	Baruipur, Diamond Harbour, Kakdwip
3.	Bankura	1	Bankura
4.	Birbhum	4	Suri, Rampurhat, Santiniketan, Bolpur
5.	Burdwan	6	Burdwan, Asansol, Katwa, Durgapur, Raniganj, Durgapur
6.	Coochbehar	1	Coochbehar
7.	Darjeeling	2	Siliguri, Darjeeling
8.	Dinajpur (North)	1	Raiganj
9.	Dinajpur (South)	1	Balurghat
10.	Hooghly	7	Serampur, Chinsurah, Arambagh, Uttarpara, Chandanagar, Rishra Hooghly
10.	Howrah	2	Howrah, Salkia
11.	Jalpaiguri	2	Jalpaiguri, Mall
12.	Kolkata	38	Kolkata, GPO, Park Street, Alipur, Cossipore, Tollygunge, Barabazar, Belegkata, Beadon Street, Dum Dum, Ballygunge,

1	2	3	4
			Circus Avenue, BNCC Block, BN Sai Complex, Sech Bhawan, Intally, Purbachal, Bowbazar, Esplanade, New Market, Writers' Bldg, Lal Bazar, Yogayog Bhawan, Kolkata University, Income Tax Bldg. Governner's Camp., Belgachia, ISI, Ghughu Danga, Shyambazar NDSO, Sarat Bose Road, New Alipur, Jadavpur University, Regent Park, Bhowanipore, S.E. Rly, Kalighat, R.B. Avenue, Kolkata A.P. Sorting.
13.	Malda	1	Malda
14.	Midnapur (East)	2	Contai, Tamluk
15.	Midnapur (West)	3	Midnapur, Jhargram, Kharagpur Tech
16.	Murshidabad	3	Berhampur, Kandi, Raghunathganj
17.	Nadia	4	Krishnagar, Nabadwip, Ranaghat Kalyani
18.	Purulia	1	Purulia
	Total	88	

Recovery of Dues of MTNL and BSNL

140. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the arrears of telephone dues payable by the Union Government and different State Governments to MTNL and BSNL by the end of September this year;

(b) the steps taken to recover and clear the dues so far and the success achieved in such recoveries indicating the latest balance of the arrears;

(c) whether some State Governments have asked the telephone authorities not to disconnect the telephones for defaults in payment; and

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

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

Norms for Import in Telecom Sector

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

(a) whether any new norm has been fixed on import in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the projection made for 2004-05 financial year; and

(d) the details thereof?

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) and (d) No projection on import in the telecom sector for 2004-05 financial year has been made.

Displacement of Families due to Leasing out of Chrome and Iron Ore Mines

142. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families displaced due to leasing out and subsequent operation of chrome ore and iron ore mines in Orissa;

(b) whether adequate steps have been taken to rehabilitate those displaced families;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to each of displaced families; and

(e) the details of the steps taken/being taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA) : (a) to (e) The State Government of Orissa has been asked to furnish the information. On receipt of the information, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Grey Market in International
Long Distance Segment**

143. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether grey market in the International long distance segment is growing rapidly leading to huge losses to the exchequer annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken in the matter to check the bungling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. The year-wise statistical information does not indicate rapid growth in grey market in the International Long Distance segment.

(b) The year-wise breakup of cases of illegal routing of incoming international calls detected so far is as under :-

1998-1999	-	09
1999-2000	-	10
2000-2001	-	29
2001-2002	-	56
2002-2003	-	46
2003-2004	-	32
2004 till date	-	22

In 204 above cases detected so far since first raid in 1998, the approximate national loss of Rs. 350 crores has occurred due to such illegal setups.

(c) The following steps have been taken in the matter to check the bungling :-

- (i) Directions have been issued to all the service providers in June 2003 to strictly monitor such illegal cases and take immediate steps to curb such setups.
- (ii) Directions have also been issued in October 2004 for handling the telecom Traffic strictly as per provisions of Interconnection Regulation issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and within the provisions of license agreement and instructions on and within the provisions of license agreement and instructions on the subject issued by the Government.
- (iii) Vigilance Telecom Monitoring cells have been created in 4 places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai. These units will be

responsible for curbing such grey market operations.

(iv) Strict action is being taken against the operators who are found involved in such grey market operations.

(v) Public Telephone numbers - 1600-110-420 & 011-23731100 have been opened so that general public call these numbers and provide information of received local numbers when they receive international calls thus helping in detection of such cases.

(vi) Advertisements have been given in the leading newspapers for creating general awareness among the public so that they actively help in providing information of received local numbers when they receive international calls.

(vii) Letters have been written to Indian Embassies abroad to arrange for generating decoy calls for identification of such illegal exchanges.

[Translation]

Fake Postal Stamps

144. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake postal stamps are being used in country;

(b) if so, the action taken against the accused in this regard and the losses suffered so far;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. However, a few cases of circulation of fake postal stamps in various parts of the country since 1999 have come to the notice of the Department.

(b) and (c) Till date fake stamps valued at approximately Rs. 6,00,00,000/- (Rs. Six crores only) have been detected. When specific cases come to notice, suitable, departmental action is taken. Such cases are also reported to police for investigation.

(d) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Reported Cases of Detection of Suspected Fake Postal Stamps by Circles*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Place	Date of detection	Details of fake stamps detected/seized			
				Denomination (in Rupees)	No.	Value (in Rs.)	Total Value (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Assam	Naharbari HO	April 1999	5 1	13 8	65 8	73
2.	Delhi	NDRS TMO	Feb. 1999	10	3	30	180
		Janakpuri & Des Col. PC	Jan. 2000	10	15	150	
3.	West Bengal	Kolkata GPO	Dec. 1999	50	15	750	750
4.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jan. 1999	2 1	894 3811	1788 3811	5599
5.	Bihar	Ashok Nagar (Ranchi)	Mar. 1999	5 10	7 2	35 20	1215
		Barh (Nalanda)	Sept. 1999	2	41	82	
		Jamalpur	Oct. 1999	2	12	24	
		Patna	Mar. 1999	5 5	198 12	990 60	
		Bankipore HO	Mar. 1999	2	2	4	
6.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	June 1999	20	2	40	33109800
		Thane (Mumbai)	Nov. 1999	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 & 1 Rev.		33048530	
		Shivaji Nagar HO, Pune City HO	Jan. 2003	10	6123	61230	
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida & Meerut	May 2000	1, 2, 3, 5, 10		32100	13648869
		Tetri Bazar Basti	July 2000	5	86	430	
		Meerut	May 03	10	50	500	
		Ghaziabad	July 2004	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 1, 5, 20, 50.05 to .75		5154839	
		Allahabad	July 2004	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 1, 5, 20, 50.05 to .75		8461000	
8.	North East	Dimapur	Sept. 1999	5	72	360	360
9.	Karnataka	Kaliar bella SO	Mar. 2003	20	133	2660	2660

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	May 03			2300000	2300000	
11.	Chhattisgarh	Rajpur HO	June 03	2	200	400	400	
12.	STAMPIT Karnataka	KNK/Delhi & Mumbai	1999	25P., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50		12730910	14327330	
		Madivala	2002	1, 2, 3, 5, 10 & 20		1596420		
13.	Punjab	Chandigarh	July 2002	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, Rev. 1.	50584 43520	117564 43520	161084	
Total							63558320	

*[English]***Reform of Recruitment Process**

145. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is studying any proposal to reform the recruitment process to the IAS, IFS and other all India and Central Services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) and (b) Recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Foreign Service, the Indian Police Service and other various Central Services are made through the Civil Services Examination. To review the present scheme of the Civil Services Examination, the Union Public Service Commission had appointed the Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh. Recommendations of Prof. Y.K. Alagh Committee alongwith the comments of the U.P.S.C. are under examination.

Separately, it has also been proposed that in order to keep pace with the latest development in various fields, both nationally and internationally, and to locate the best available talent, the recruitment should be made at a young age. On this suggestion, Government have sought suggestions from all Chief Secretaries of the State Governments, Cadre Controlling Authorities participating in the Civil Services Examination and LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The text of the notes have been placed on the website of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, www.darpg.nic.in. for seeking opinion of public in general.

Legislation to Curb Junk Mail on Internet

146. SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :

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

(a) whether the Junk Mail on the internet are reaching alarming proportions and the Government is planning to come out with legislation to curb this menace;

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

(c) the time by which the proposed legislation is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Government is aware that the junk mails on the internet are reaching alarming proportion. An Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Cyber Laws & Cyber Forensics set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Information Technology having members from industry, institutions, experts and concerned government departments has examined the entire issue and based on its recommendations action for amendment to the IT Act, 2000 is underway. The subject matter of junk mail has also been studied in depth. It requires harmonisation with technological developments taking place internationally and global feedback on the need and adequacy of the appropriate legislation. Department, therefore, intends to take suitable action at the appropriate time when the global position becomes clear.

Tamil as I.T. Friendly Language

147. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Indian languages made IT friendly so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to make Tamil Language as IT friendly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Language Processing tools are being developed for 18 Indian Languages namely Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Resource Centre for Indian Language Technology Solutions (RCILTS) at Anna University is focussing on the development of language processing tools for Tamil Languages.

C-DAC Word-processing products also support Tamil.

Proprietary products from private vendors such as Chennai Kavigal support Tamil.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone Connections to Villages in West Bengal

148. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of villages having telephone services in West Bengal;

(b) the district-wise number of villages where telephone services are yet to be provided; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone services in such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) District-wise number of villages with and without telephone services in West Bengal are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) All revenue villages in the West Bengal Circle except 978 villages have already been provided with telecom facility. Telecom facility in these villages could not be provided as these villages are having population less than 100 and

no telephone facility is to be provided in such villages as per policy of the Government/USO.

Statement

District-wise details of villages with and without Telecom facility in West Bengal

Sl. No.	District	No. of Villages having Telephone Services	No. of Villages without Telephone Services
1.	Burdwan	2488	0
2.	Bankura	3263	175
3.	Murshidabad	1837	81
4.	Howrah	1016	0
5.	Hooghly	1270	0
6.	24-Parganas North	2286	0
7.	24-Parganas South	1778	0
8.	Coochbehar	1170	0
9.	Jalpaiguri	703	0
10.	Midnapur East	4473	88
11.	Midnapur West	5693	112
12.	Nadia	1248	0
13.	Malda	1641	0
14.	Purulla	2161	522
15.	Uttar Dinajpur	1827	0
16.	Dakshin Dinajpur	1218	0
17.	Darjeeling	628	0
18.	Birbhum	2232	0
Total		36932	978

Foreign Investment in Development of Ports

149. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to bring about a "transparent and independent" regulatory framework, that would help increase the flow of foreign investment in the infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, whether the development of ports can

re-build maritime links of Coromandel Coast with South-East Asia;

(c) if so, the extent to which the development of ports will be helpful for improving trade facilities to South-Eastern countries; and

(d) the foreign investment needed to meet the development of these ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to set up a regulatory framework to increase the flow of foreign investment in the infrastructure sectors.

As far as Port Sector is concerned an Authority already exists in the form of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), which was set up by amending Major Ports Trusts Act, 1963 through Port Laws (Amendment) Act, 1997 (15 of 1997), for framing scale of rates in Major Port Trusts and interalia with a view to promote investment in the Port Sector.

(b) to (d) Maritime trade links already exist between Coromandel Coast with South-East Asia. Development and modernisation of ports is an on going process, keeping in view the requirement of maritime trade. Foreign direct investment upto 100 under automatic route is permitted by the Government in construction and maintenance of harbours and ports. During the 10th Plan period, private investment of Rs. 11,257 crores, including foreign direct investment is envisaged in major ports.

Toll-Based Build Operate Transfer Model

150. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested wider adoption of the toll-based build operate transfer model instead of the annuity approach for development of highways through the public private-partnership;

(b) if so, whether it has also recommended the creation of an independent regulatory authority for the road sector; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Government has agreed to the Planning Commissions recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Hospitals

151. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any scheme for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency/Trauma facilities of State Hospitals on National Highways to augment and upgrade the Accident and Emergency services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent and achievements made in this regard during the last three years State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways under which financial assistance is provided to the State/UTs to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 crores to augment and upgrade the Accident & Emergency Services in selected State Government Hospitals which fall in most accident prone area of National Highways.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of the Financial Assistance Released to various states for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency Facilities of State Hospitals of Towns/Cities Located on National Highways during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Assam

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency and Trauma Services in the Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari during the year 2002-03.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Andhra Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Nellore during the year 2003-04.

2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Care Centre at Government Hospital, Kurnool during the year 2003-04.

Bihar

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
3. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Service at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Sadar Hospital, Chapra, Saran during the year 2003-04.

Chhattisgarh

1. Rs. 109.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Unit of Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur during the year 2002-03.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad during the year 2002-2003.
3. Rs. 146.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital, Rajkot during the year 2003-04.

Goa

1. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma and Accident Unit at Hospicio Hospital, Margao during the year 2002-03.

Haryana

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Sirsa during the year 2003-04.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 147.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla and Zonal Hospital, Bilaspur during the year 2002-03.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/trauma

services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Murgund, Kangan during the year 2001-02.

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Medical College, Kozhikode during the year 2002-03.

Karnataka

1. Rs. 136.50 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital & Research Institute, Bangalore during the year 2002-03.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at District Hospital, Shivpuri during the year 2003-04.

Mizoram

1. Rs. 58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 74.30 lakhs upgradation and strengthening of accident & emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizawl during the year 2001-02.

Manipur

1. Rs. 149.92 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of J.N. Hospital, Imphal during the year 2002-03.

Nagaland

1. Rs. 144.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Medziphema during the year 2002-03.

Orissa

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Casualty and Emergency facilities at S.C.B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack during the year 2003-04.

Rajasthan

1. Rs. 116.80 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Government Hospitals, Shahpura, Kishangarh, Bhim and Sojat City during the year 2003-04.

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services at District Headquarters Hospital, Omalur during the year 2003-04.
3. Rs. 143.00 lakhs for development of accident and emergency facilities at Government Headquarters Hospital, Villupuram during the year 2003-04.
4. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident Trauma Centre of Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital, Chengalpattu during the year 2003-04.

Uttaranchal

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Doon Hospital, Dehradun during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Goverdhan Tiwari Base Hospital, Almora during the year 2002-03.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at District Hospital, Gopeshwar, District Chamoli during the year 2003-04.

Surrendering of Telephone Connections

152. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of surrendered and disconnected phones of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam has crossed the 50 lakh mark during the last two financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss of revenue in view of surrender and disconnection of Telephone connections;

(c) whether it is true that at the same time as on March 31, 2004 over 17 lakh people were waiting for phone connections from BSNL; 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) Yes, Sir.

The details of surrendered and disconnected phones of BSNL and MTNL during the last two financial years are furnished below:

Year	BSNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)	MTNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)
2002-03	17,93,536	4,67,200
2003-04	32,60,135	9,76,937

Despite the surrender of telephones, the subscriber base of BSNL has increased by 47.70 lakhs during 2002-03 and 34.59 lakhs during 2003-04. The equipment getting spare due to surrender of phones is being utilized to give telephone connections to other wait listed applicants. It is thus, not possible to identify with any degree of precision the revenue loss caused by such surrender of telephones.

(c) and (d) The total waiting list of BSNL as on 31.03.2004 was 17,54,965. Circle-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Circle wise waiting list of BSNL*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	Waiting list as on 31.03.2004
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	151
2.	Andhra Pradesh	51934
3.	Assam	15797
4.	Bihar	112465
5.	Chhattisgarh	2118
6.	Gujarat	58847
7.	Haryana	81657
8.	Himachal Pradesh	44935
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	39704
10.	Jharkhand	8143
11.	Karnataka	89730
12.	Kerala	419762
13.	Madhya Pradesh	17300
14.	Maharashtra	159004
15.	North East - 1	5975
16.	North East - 2	5387
17.	Orissa	27713

1	2	3
18.	Punjab	92284
19.	Rajasthan	138019
20.	Tamil Nadu	58995
21.	Uttaranchal	5729
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	101771
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	43670
24.	West Bengal	144226
25.	Kolkatta	22720
26.	Chennai	6929
Total		1754965

Training Officials for using IT

153. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is training officials at various levels for using IT for service delivery for the poor;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken to improve citizens access to information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) and (b) The State Administrative Training Institutes conduct several programmes each year to impart Information Technology (IT) skills to the State Civil Service Officers and other support staff. 139 such programmes have been sponsored by the Department of Personnel and Training for the year 2004-2005. E-Governance and IT skills are also imparted during the induction training of IAS officers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. The National Informatics Centre also imparts training to Government officials on a regular basis. All of those help in creating capability to use IT for service delivery.

(c) Most Central Ministries and State Governments have set up web-sites as a means to improve citizens access to information. Several cities and districts have set up IT based information and service delivery facilities, which also improve access to information, E-Seva in Andhra Pradesh, Bhoomi in Karnataka, Jan Mitra in Rajasthan, Mahiti Shakti in Gujarat and Gyandoot in MP are amongst some of them. The Government of India has also enacted the

'Freedom of Information Act' to enable access to information under the control of public authorities.

Assistance for Upgradation of Hospitals

154. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government had received several requests from various State Governments, especially from Gujarat Government, for grant of assistance for the upgradation of hospitals in respective States during the last year;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- the total amount of funds released and the total numbers of hospitals upgraded/modernised in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways under which the financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 crores to augment and upgrade the Accident & Emergency Services in selected State Government Hospitals which fall in most accident prone area of National Highways. Under the above Project, this Ministry received several proposals from various States/UTs, including Gujarat, for financial assistance. The providing of financial assistance to the States/UTs is subject to the completion of required formalities and availability of funds.

- (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of the Financial Assistance Released to various States for Upgradation and Strengthening of Emergency Facilities of State Hospitals of Towns/Cities Located on National Highways during the Ninth Plan Period.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Rs. 59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency care service at Pasighat General Hospital, Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01.
- Rs. 116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Bihar

- Rs. 53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira

Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna during the year 1999-2000.

2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda during the year 2001-02.

Haryana

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal during the year 1999-2000.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/trauma services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan during the year 2001-02.

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Emakulam during the year 2001-02.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs. 97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore during the year 1999-2000.

Mizoram

1. Rs. 58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 74.30 lakhs upgradation and strengthening of accident & emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizawl during the year 2001-02.

Pondicherry

1. Rs. 78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-01.

Sikkim

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of

Emergency Care Unit at S.T.N.M. Hospital, Gangtok during the year 2000-01.

Tripura

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Tripura Sundari Hospital (South District), Udaipur during the year 2000-01.

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow during the year 2000-01.

Gross Domestic Product

155. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the GDP in farm sector and GDP in overall sectors in 2003-04;

(b) the projected GDP in farm and other sectors for the current year;

(c) whether the Government is likely to achieve the projected GDP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) The GDP in "agriculture, forestry and fishing" sector at current prices is estimated as Rs. 560482 crore, which is 22.2 per cent of the overall GDP of the country of Rs. 2523872 crore during 2003-04.

(b) The annual targets are not fixed by the Planning Commission, as such, the projected GDP in farm sector for the current year is not available.

(c) For achieving the Tenth Plan GDP targets, steps contemplated are outlined in the Tenth Five Year Plan document.

(d) The Tenth Plan proposals, inter alia, include, larger investment in infrastructure and social sector, improving the efficiency of resources used, fuller utilization of the capacity created, creating investor friendly environment and enhancing efficiency of delivery system. In the Agriculture sector, the Tenth Plan proposals include greater Public

investment in irrigation, eliminating inter-state barriers to trade and commerce, amending Agriculture Produce Marketing Act, liberalizing agri-trading, agri-industry exports, encouraging contract farming, permit futures trading in all commodities and removal of restrictions on financing of stocking and trading.

Closure of Ancillary Units

156. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of ancillary units which were depending on National Aluminium Company (NALCO) have been closed down;

(b) if so, the State-wise names of such ancillary units;

(c) whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by NALCO for the ailing units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA) :

(a) No, Sir. As per available information, no ancillary unit dependent on NALCO has been closed down.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Health Services

157. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for purchase of machinery and essential equipments costing around Rs. 21.45 crore with financial assistance from Japan's grant-in-aid for upgrading the health services in Government Medical Colleges and Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur-Latur Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati into regional referral centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Government of Maharashtra for upgradation of civil hospitals and Government Medical Colleges at Kolhapur-Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati into regional referral centres at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.45 crores was submitted for the consideration of Government of Japan through Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs, Department of Economic Affairs in 2002. The Embassy of Japan has informed vide their communication dated 23rd November 2004 that the above proposal has not been adopted for financial assistance.

[English]

Visit of Indian Delegation Abroad

158. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI KIRIT VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian Delegations who visited various countries including the PM and EAM, in the last three months till date, country-wise;

(b) the details of deliberations held and the agreements signed on the said occasions including the terms of agreements;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued by the said agreements; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (d) The details of visits of Indian Delegations, including that of PM and EAM during the last three months, along with details of deliberations held, agreements signed, likely benefits to be accrued and steps taken by Government to strengthen relations with other countries, are given below country-wise:

Bhutan

I

(a) to (d) Shri K. Natwar Singh, External Affairs Minister visited Bhutan from 12-13 October, 2004. EAM was received by His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interests, including security related issues. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to review and further strengthen the close and mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between India and Bhutan.

II

(a) to (d) The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh visited Bhutan (20-24 October, 2004) on the occasion of Investiture Ceremony of HRH Crown Prince as Choetse Penelop; the gesture of the Government of

India in sending its Minister for this important occasion was greatly appreciated by the Royal Government of Bhutan. During the visit, MOS (EA) also signed an agreement on Project Implementation Mechanism, which is expected to streamline the implementation and monitoring of GOI-assisted projects being undertaken under the five-year Plans of Bhutan.

Sri Lanka

(a) Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahmed visited Sri Lanka from August 24-26, 2004.

(b) MOS (EA) attended a meeting of IOR-ARC countries meant to augment cooperation among Indian Ocean rim countries. No agreement was signed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is frequent contact at multiple levels between the governments of the two countries; work on strengthening the framework of economic cooperation through a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement has begun; Defence Cooperation is increasing; infrastructural and transport linkages are being augmented.

Iran

(a) Shri J.N. Dixit, National Security Advisor visited the Islamic Republic of Iran from October 17-18, 2004 at the invitation of Dr. Hassan Rohani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran.

(b) During his visit NSA had wide-ranging discussions with his counterpart Dr. Rohani. He also called on the President of Iran Hojjatoeslam Mohammad Khatami and Chairman of the Expediency Council Hojjatoeslam Ali Akbar Rafsanjani and Speaker Majlis Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel. Shri Dixit also met the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Kamla Kharrazi. In the discussions, both sides exchanged views on the enhancement and further consolidation of their bilateral relations. The two sides also reaffirmed their commitment to intensify cooperation in such sectors as energy, transit and trade. Views were exchanged on regional issues including Iraq and Afghanistan. The Iranian side also apprised the Indian side of its efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. No agreements were signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India and Iran are committed to expand and consolidate the cooperative framework of their multifaceted bilateral ties and are conscious of the need to build a framework for strategic cooperation. As per the MoU on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation signed between the two countries in January 2003, the two countries are following a focused approach to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of political dialogue, energy, trade and transit and science and technology.

Afghanistan

(a) Shri J.N. Dixit, National Security Advisor visited Afghanistan on October 19, 2004.

(b) During his short visit to Kabul, NSA called on President Karzai, Vice President and Defence Minister Marshal Fahim and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. In the meetings, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest. The focus of the discussions was on India's Assistance program to Afghanistan's reconstruction. The Afghan side conveyed their appreciation for extensive contribution of India to Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and rehabilitation. No agreements were signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To strengthen relations with Afghanistan, there have been intensive political interactions with a cross-section of Afghan leadership through high level political exchanges and Government of India has provided extensive humanitarian, financial and project assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Qatar

(a) Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited from 15th - 16th September 2004.

(b) to (d) Held discussions with H.E. Mr. Ahmad bin Abdulla Al Mohmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The discussions covered bilateral relations, regional and international issues. No. agreements were signed during the visit.

UAE

(a) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President, accompanied by Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri P.R. Chauhan, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, and senior officials, visited Abu Dhabi on November 3-4, 2004 to offer condolences to the bereaved AL Nahyan family on the demise of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Sultan bin Al Nahyan.

(b) to (d) The visit was used to underline the importance we attach to our relations with UAE, which is home to 1.2 million persons from India and a large market for our products, Sheikh Zayed had played a vital role in fostering this relationship.

OMAN

(a) Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs visited from 4th to 7th November, 2004.

(b) to (d) Held discussions with the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Manpower and the Minister of Heritage and Culture and H.H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq Al Said, a senior member of the Royal Family. The discussions covered matters of mutual interest, bilateral trade and economic ties and issues regarding the Indian work force in Oman. No agreements were signed during the visit.

Tanzania

(a) President Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Tanzania from 10-14 September 2004.

(b) Hon'ble President held discussions with President Mkapa and with a number of other Ministers on matters of mutual interest. The important subjects discussed were assistance to Tanzania in fields of agriculture and small - scale industries. Discussions were also held for cooperation in the field of Information Technology between the two countries. Two agreements were signed with Tanzania: one for waiver of loan granted to it earlier and the other for cooperation in the field of Information Technology. Assistance for a Pan-African Satellite/fibre-optic network for tele-education and tele-medicine was also discussed.

The visits were intended to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries and to give impetus to our relations with African countries in general and with Tanzania and South Africa in particular. These visits were in keeping with India's 'Focus Africa' policy.

As a part of India's "Focus Africa" policy, Government has been consistently trying to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries. Conscious of the economic difficulties being faced by some of the African countries, India has been helping these countries by providing them aid in the form of foodgrains and medicines. With a view to assist their human resource development India is also imparting training to African nationals in various fields.

SOUTH AFRICA

(a) to (d) President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited South Africa from 15-17 September, 2004. The President met President Mbeki and some other dignitaries, including Dr. Nelson Mandela. Discussions were held on matters of mutual concern in both bilateral and multilateral fields. An agreement was signed between the two countries for cooperation in the field of Information Technology.

The visits were intended to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries and to give impetus to our relations with African countries in general and with Tanzania and South Africa in particular. These visits were keeping with India's 'Focus Africa' policy.

As a part of India's "Focus Africa" policy, Government has been consistently trying to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries. Conscious of the economic difficulties being faced by some of the African countries, India has been helping these countries by providing them aid in the form of foodgrains and medicines. With a view to assist their human resource development India is also imparting training to African nationals in various fields.

USA

(a) PM led the Indian delegation to the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, held in New York in September 2004. EAM accompanied the PM and participated in the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

(b) to (d) PM addressed the UNGA on September 23, 2004. In his address to the UNGA, and in the bilateral interactions of PM and EAM, a number of important issues on the international agenda were covered. India's participation was active and constructive.

Prime Minister met with President Bush on 21 September, 2004 in New York. They held wide-ranging discussions including developments of bilateral relations, terrorism, and global trade. The two leaders exchanged thoughts on their shared global concerns and agreed that making the world a safer place was an overriding priority. They agreed that stronger partnership between India and the United States, two nations sharing values and traditions, acting in concert in international institutions, would enhance global security and prosperity.

To strengthen relations further with US, Indian Government is focusing on Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP), High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) and the bilateral Economic Dialogue. This is already giving results in the form of liberalized licenses on exports of dual use and high technology items from US. With respect to Canada, Indian is seeking investments in the area of Infrastructure.

VIETNAM

(a) A delegation headed by EAM visited Hanoi 15th-18th October, 2004.

(b) The visit was in connection with the 12th India-Vietnam Joint Commission and in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Pandit Nehru's meeting with President Ho Chi Minh. During the visit joint agreed minutes were adopted along with an Action Plan for the years 2004-2006 for promoting bilateral ties in all areas.

(c) The agreed minutes of the 12th Joint Commission as well as the Action Plan for 2004-2006 provide for clearly identified activities for promoting bilateral relations in all areas.

(b) The Government remains in regular and close contact with all the countries for strengthening our ties in the bilateral, regional and multilateral context. This involves high-level bilateral visits, contacts at the multilateral institutions and the day-to-day efforts by our Misson.

THAILAND

(a) EAM paid a transit visit to Bangkok on 15th/16th October 2004 on his way to Hanoi.

(b) No agreement was signed, as this was only a transit visit. However, EAM had an opportunity of meeting his Thai counterpart to take stock of the growing bilateral relationship.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government remains in regular and close contact with all the countries for strengthening our ties in the bilateral, regional and multilateral context. This involves high-level bilateral visits, contacts at the multilateral institutions and the day-to-day efforts by our Misson.

PALESTINE

(a) A delegation led by MOS (EA) Shri E. Ahamed visited Palestine from September 17-19, 2004.

(b) The visiting delegation called on President Yasir Arafat, the President of Palestine National Authority and the Foreign Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'ath. During these meetings, issues relating to Middle East Peace Process as well as other bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interests were discussed. During the visit, MOS(EA) handed over 12 TATA Safari vehicles and medicines worth 2 Crores totally to the Palestinian National Authority. No agreements were signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The visit reflected the Government of India's continued commitment and support to the Palestinian cause, including to the relief and reconstruction efforts of the Palestinian National Authority.

EGYPT

(a) to (d) A delegation led by External Affairs Minister which included Minister of Railways, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Sitaram Yechuri CPM Politburo, Shri Rajiv Sikri Secretary (East) and other officials represented India at the condolence ceremony held in Cairo in honour of President Yasir Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority.

PANAMA/COLOMBIA / ELSALVADOR/ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(a) to (d) Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, MOS for External Affairs visited Panama, Colombia, El Salvador and Dominican

Republic from 30 August to 9 September 2004 promoting bilateral and business relations, seeking support for our candidature to Permanent Membership of UNSC, highlighting emergence of India as an economic power and emphasizing our commitment to the region.

The thrust of our policy in the Latin American and Caribbean regions is to strengthen and widen the existing relationship to realize greater political understanding to work together at bilateral and multilateral level, exploring ways to enhance trade and commerce. Initiatives are taken to engage regional groups for political dialogue. India has signed framework Agreement with regional groupings such as MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM and SICA covering the whole region.

KAZAKHSTAN

(a) to (d) EAM led Indian delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from October 21-22, 2004. The meeting adopted the following documents:-

- (1) CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures
- (2) CICA Rules and Procedures

EAM also utilized the opportunity to have bilateral consultations with President Nazarbayev and Foreign Minister Tokayev of Kazakhstan. No agreements were signed during the visit. Cooperation in oil and gas Information Technology was discussed in the two bilateral meetings. A trilateral meeting with Foreign Ministers of China and Russia was also held on the sidelines of the meeting. The CICA Ministerial Meeting marked another step in the evolution of CICA. India has been actively participating in CICA in keeping within its commitment of promoting greater trust and confidence.

CHINA

(a) to (d) Shri J.N. Dixit, National Security Advisor, visited from 17-19 November, 2004 to hold 4th Special Representatives' Meeting.

BELGIUM

(a) EAM visited Belgium from 12-14 September, 2004.

(b) EAM met Dutch Foreign Minister Mr. Bernard Bot, the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, European Commissioner for External Relations, Mr. Chris Patten, European Commissioner-designate for External Relations, Ms Benita Ferrero Waldner and Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Karel De Gucht. The discussions focussed on preparation for the 5th India-EU Summit. Both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. No agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The visit was in connection with preparation for the 5th India-EU Summit at the Hague in the Netherlands.

UK

(a) PM led a delegation including EAM to U.K. on 19-20 September 2004.

(b) PM had wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. EAM met, UK Foreign Secretary Mr. Jack Straw separately. PM interacted with a high level British Corporate delegation and met a delegation from Labour Party Friends of India group in British Parliament. No agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the visit the two sides issued a joint declaration on "India - UK : Towards a new and dynamic partnership" that outlined the areas of future cooperation in our strategic relations.

THE NETHERLANDS

(a) PM led a delegation, which comprised EAM and Commerce and Industry Minister to the 5th India-EU Summit at the Hague from 7-9 November, 2004.

(b) The EU side was led by Dutch Prime Minister Jan-Peter Balkenende, in his capacity as President-in-Office of the European Council, and included Mr. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. We agreed to strengthen and deepen our bilateral relations including Parliamentary exchanges and Civil Society interaction and cooperation in Energy, Environment and Science and Technology. We agreed to intensify consultation on UN Reforms and Cooperation in Counter Terrorism. PM called on Queen Beatrix and participated in the 'India-EU Business Round Table' - a select group of Indian and European CEOs. EAM had a bilateral meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot. No agreements were signed during the visit.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Joint Press Statement was adopted at the conclusion of the Summit, reflecting our shared perceptions on various issues of mutual concern. The Joint Declaration on Cultural Cooperation, which is annexed to the Joint Press Statement, will provide a broad framework for our enhanced cooperation in culture, including exchanges of scholars and students as well as techniques and know-how in conservation and restoration of works of art and monuments.

The 5th India-EU Summit represents a landmark in India-EU relations for it launched the "India-EU Strategic Partnership" in recognition of the growing stature of India as a major regional and global player.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

159. SHRI SURESH ANGADI :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN :
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since August, 2004 till date;
- (b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the gain likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with the other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : The details of foreign dignitaries who visited India since August 2004 till date are given below, country-wise:-

NEPAL

(a) to (e) H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal accompanied by a high-level delegation which included senior Ministers of his Cabinet, paid an official working visit to India from September 8-12, 2004. During his stay, he held wide ranging discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The priority focus of discussions was on security-related issues of mutual concern arising from the internal security situation in Nepal and the Maoist problem.

The other issues discussed related to joint flood management and control, inundation problems affecting people on both sides of the border, early conclusion of Extradition Treaty and Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal matters, economic cooperation and infrastructure developmental projects in Nepal, etc.

An Agreement was signed on Cooperation in the fields of Culture and Sports, which would provide the necessary framework for institutionalized cooperation in these areas.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in

the field of Weather Forecasting was concluded, which envisages the setting up of an INSAT Ground Receiving Station in Nepal.

BANGLADESH

(a) Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan visited India from October 31-November 2, 2004.

(b) Matters of bilateral interest including the intensification of bilateral economic and commercial relations and other issues of mutual concern were discussed during the visit. Indian concerns on border management, the issue of Indian Insurgent Groups and illegal migration were reiterated. Bangladesh assured India that it is committed to not allowing the use of its territory for activities prejudicial to India's interests. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh invited Prime Minister to attend the 13th SAARC summit to be held at Dhaka in January 2005.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Institutionalized interaction at multiple levels between the two governments on a large number of issues takes place regularly; initiatives have been undertaken to intensify economic relations and improve its institutional framework and increase people-to-people contact; a number of special measures have been taken in the recent past including extending flood relief assistance of Rs. 100 crores and US\$ 150 million credit line. India remains committed to the SAARC process and it has shouldered a major share of responsibility for SAARC activities and has vigorously promoted trade and other forms of economic, social and technical cooperation within SAARC. India also actively supports people to people initiatives aimed at fostering greater mutual understanding and goodwill in the region.

MALDIVES

(a) Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, the then Minister of Health of Maldives visited India from August 24-26, 2004 as the Special Envoy of President of Maldives.

(b) Mr. Abdullah had met External Affairs Minister on August 25, 2004 and exchanged views on recent developments/matters of bilateral interest. He also handed over a letter from President Goyoom of Maldives addressed to the PM.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India and the Maldives enjoy close and friendly relations. The warmth of these relations has been kept up through regular high-level exchanges. India is engaged in providing economic and technical assistance to Maldives in

its efforts to develop infrastructure facilities in the Maldives. We also provide training facilities to Maldivian official in varied areas in civil and defence sectors.

SRI LANKA

(a) President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (Nov 3-7, 2004)

Leader of Opposition Ranil Wickremesinghe (Oct 10-14), 2004

(b) The whole range of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed during the visits. The Indian leadership was also briefed by the visiting leaders about the status of the peace process in Sri Lanka.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is frequent contact at multiple levels between the governments of the two countries; work on strengthening the framework of economic cooperation through a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement has begun; Defence Cooperation is increasing; infrastructural and transport linkages are being augmented.

PAKISTAN

(i) (a) to (d) Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Khurshid M. Kasuri, accompanied by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, visited India from September 4-8, 2004 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister, on September 5-6 2004. They reviewed the overall progress in the Composite Dialogue. The Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meetings between the two countries on various subjects, including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, inter alia, to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the Munnabao - Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MoU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, inter alia, discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. The two Ministers also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issues related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; the addition of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices, including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

(ii) (a) to (d) The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat

Aziz, visited India on November 23-24, 2004 in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC. During his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in addition to the exchange of views on matters related to SAARC, the two sides also exchanged views on bilateral issues.

(e) Government remains committed to establishment of peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan. Continuous efforts have been made to intensify the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue, and cooperation with Pakistan. One round of the Composite Dialogue (February-September 2004) was completed successfully. Wide ranging proposals for confidence building, promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields and enhancing commercial and economic relations were made by India. Both sides have been able to identify areas of convergence and future cooperation. The process has been taken forward by high-level political contacts, including the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf in New York on September 24, 2004; and regular interactions between External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. The visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004 in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC, also facilitated forward movement on the bilateral front.

MYANMAR

(a) (1) H.E. Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of State Peace and Development Council (Head of State) of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by a high-level delegation paid a State visit of India from 25th to 29th October, 2004.

(2) Foreign Minister of Thailand, H.E. Surakiat Sathirathai, visited India from 4th to 6th November, 2004 to attend the Hindustan Times Seminar.

(b) (1) During the VVIP visit from Myanmar, a range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest were discussed.

(2) There was no bilateral substantive meeting with Foreign Minister, H.E. Surakiat Sathirathai, as he visited India mainly to participate in the Hindustan Times Seminar.

(c) (1) During the VVIP visit, three bilateral documents were signed, namely,

(i) MoU on Cooperation in Non-Traditional Security Matters;

(ii) The Cultural Exchange Programme; and

(iii) MoU for a Pre-feasibility Study in respect of Tamanthi Hydro-Electric Project.

(2) As it was not a bilateral visit, no agreements were signed during Foreign Minister, H.E. Surakiat Sathirathai's visit.

(d) The documents signed with Myanmar would facilitate cooperation in security matters, cultural exchanges and energy sector.

(e) The Government remains in regular and close contact with all the countries for strengthening our ties in the bilateral, regional and multilateral context. This involves high-level bilateral visits, contacts at the multilateral institutions and the day-to-day efforts by our Mission.

Afghanistan

(a) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan paid an official visit to India from August 31-September 3, 2004.

(b) The two sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest. The focus of the discussions were on India's Assistance program to Afghanistan's reconstruction.

(c) Yes.

(d) An MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute of Diplomacy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Afghanistan was signed during the visit. Under the MoU, the two Institutes will cooperate in training and building expertise of the diplomatic cadre of Afghanistan. The MoU provides, among others, for participation by diplomatic officials in each other's training programmes conducted by the respective institutions to strengthen bilateral relations with Afghanistan.

(e) To strengthen relations with Afghanistan, there have been intensive political interactions with a cross-section of Afghan leadership through high level political exchanges and Government of India has provided extensive humanitarian, financial and project assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction.

NEW ZEALAND

(a) H E Rt. Hon. Helen Clarke, Prime Minister of New Zealand - State Visit to India - October, 2004.

(b) During the visit, PM Clarke called on the President and had talks with the Prime Minister, EAM and Commerce and Industry Minister. PM Clarke also addressed a combined gathering of the CII and FICCI. A wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues were discussed during the visit.

(c) No agreement was signed.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Govt. is committed to strengthening relations with all the countries in the Pacific region.

SINGAPORE

- (a) Dr. Tony Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence of Singapore visited India from October 24-2 November 2004.
- (b) During the visit, Dr. Tony Tan had talks with EAM, Defence Minister, Home Minister, HRD Minister and National Security Advisor. The visit was to gain insights into India's security structures to fight domestic and international terrorism. A wide range of other bilateral, regional and multilateral issues were discussed during the visit.
- (c) No agreement was signed.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Govt. is committed to strengthening relations with all the countries in the South East Asia region.

JAPAN

(a) to (e) Foreign Minister Mr. Yoriko Kawaguchi visited India from August 12-14, 2004. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues. It was decided that India and Japan would support each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the UN Security Council and closely work with each other. The two sides also decided to establish a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and establish a bilateral dialogue on UN reforms.

KOREA

(a) to (e) President Mr. Roh Moo-hyun visited India from October 4-6, 2004. An extradition Treaty and a Treaty on Mutual legal Assistance was signed. A joint Statement was issued during the visit. The two sides also decides to establish a new dialogue on Foreign Policy and Security, and to establish a Joint Study Group to comprehensively review bilateral economic and commercial linkages.

KUWAIT

- (a) Sheikh (Dr.) Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait visited India from 24th to 26th August 2004.
- (b) Deliberations were held on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) and (e) (1) Extradition Treaty
- (2) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
- (3) MoU for Establishment of Indo-Kuwait Strategic Consultative Group

When the Extradition treaty comes into force, any person accused or convicted of an extraditable offence, who is wanted by one of the signing States, shall be extradited.

Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters will improve the effectiveness of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of all types of crime, and tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime, through co-operation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

MOU for Establishment of India-Kuwait Strategic Consultative Group will facilitate period meetings between the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and the Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, to enhance economic, political and security cooperation between the two countries on a sustained and long-term basis.

GCC

- (a) Mr. Abdul Rahman Bin Hamad Al-Atiyya, Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council visited India from 24th to 26th August 2004.
- (b) Economic Cooperation between India and Gulf Cooperation Council was discussed.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) (e) Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation between India and the Member States of GCC.

The agreement seeks to promote economic cooperation between the two sides in various fields through various means such as exchange of information and expertise, removal of trade barriers, enhanced communications and contacts between business organizations, encouragement of capital flows, business delegations and through a Free Trade Agreement.

SENEGAL

- (a) External Affairs Minister of Senegal visited from 8-11 September 2004;
- (b) Deliberations were held on increasing cooperation between both countries.
- (c) No agreement was signed during the visit.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) India is taking steps to increase its relations with West Africa politically, economically and commercially. Launch of TEAM-9, an initiative between India and eight countries of West Africa would help to bring the relationship much closer. New lines of credit have been established to give a boost to our bilateral economic and commercial relationship.

NIGERIA

- (a) President of Nigeria had a transit visit from 2-3 November 2004.
- (b) Deliberations were held on increasing cooperation between both countries.
- (c) No agreement was signed during the visit.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) India is taking steps to increase its relations with West Africa politically, economically and commercially. Launch of TEAM-9, an initiative between India and eight countries of West Africa would help to bring the relationship much closer. New lines of credit have been established to give boost to our bilateral economic and commercial relationship.

COMOROS

(a) to (d) Mr. Soef Mohd El Amine, Minister of External Affairs and Cooperation visited India from 23-27 August 2004. The visiting Minister met Shri Natwar Singh, Minister for External Affairs, Shri Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Minister of State for Education and Shri Mahavir Prasad, Minister of Small Scale, Agro and Rural Industries. Matters of mutual interest both in bilateral and multilateral fields were discussed. Comoros Minister sought India's assistance in diverse fields like agriculture.

(e) As a part of India's "Focus Africa" policy, Government has been consistently trying to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries. Conscious of the economic difficulties being faced by some of the African countries, India has been helping these countries by providing them aid in the form of foodgrains and medicines. With a view to assist their human resource development India is also imparting training to African nationals in various fields.

LESOTHO

(a) to (d) Mr. Mohlabi Tsekoa, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from October 11-16, 2004. He held talks with the Indian delegation led by Minister of State for External Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh on matters of mutual interest. Lesotho side sought India's assistance in the fields of agriculture, small-scale industries, health, human resource development and military training. The delegation also held meetings with Secretary (A & C), Ministry of Agriculture, and Secretary, Deptt. of Small Industries, and discussed cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture and small scale industries.

(e) As a part of India's "Focus Africa" policy, Government has been consistently trying to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries. Conscious of the economic difficulties being faced by some of the African countries, India has been helping these countries by providing them aid in the form of foodgrains and medicines. With a view to assist their human resource development India is also imparting training to African nationals in various fields.

MAURITIUS

(a) to (d) Mr. Krishan Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Regional Cooperation visited India from November 12-19, 2004. The visiting Minister met Prime Minister, Minister for External Affairs, Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Information Technology. Matters of mutual interest both in bilateral and multilateral fields like WTO were discussed.

(e) As a part of India's "Focus Africa" policy, Government has been consistently trying to improve and strengthen our relations with African countries. Conscious of the economic difficulties being faced by some of the African countries, India has been helping these countries by providing them aid in the form of foodgrains and medicines. With a view to assist their human resource development India is also imparting training of African nationals in various fields.

RUSSIA

(a) to (e)

I The Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Lavrov visited India on 8-10 October, 2004. The bilateral issues with specific focus on increasing Indo-Russia trade was discussed. In addition, regional and international issues were also discussed, and both sides discussed ways and means to Simplify visa regime between the two countries. No agreement was signed during the visit.

II The Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Alexander Zhukov visited India from 18-20 November, 2004. The Russian DPM had come to India to co-Chair the 10th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation (IRIGC). A Protocol on the decisions arrived at in the meeting of the 10th Session of IRIGC was signed between the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and EAM, the co-Chairman from the Indian side.

The Protocol signed between India and Russia provides for strengthening of relations between the two countries in the fields of trade, economy, science and technology and culture. India hopes that through increased trade and other exchanges in technology and culture with Russia, Indian interests in Russia would be served better.

UZBEKISTAN

(a) to (e) The Uzbek Foreign Minister, Mr. Sadik S. Safayev visited India on 29-30 October, 2004. Bilateral, regional, international political issues and consular, air services, trade and commercial potential areas, information technology, food processing and tourism related issues were discussed. An MoU on Information Technology between the Uzbek Foreign Minister and our EAM was signed. The MoU signed between India and Uzbekistan provides for setting of a centre for information technology in Tashkent, Uzbekistan through Indian assistance. Through the involvement in the setting up of the technology centre, the Indian side hopes to get spin

offs in varied areas of information technology development in Uzbekistan.

FRANCE

(a) French Foreign Minister, Mr. Michel Barnier visited India from 27-28 October, 2004.

(b) Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual concern. The French Foreign Minister reiterated support for India's candidature in an expanded UNSC.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) France is a strategic partner of India with which we wish to maintain close interaction through exchange of high level visits and cooperation in multilateral for a.

GERMANY

(a) German Chancellor Mr. Gerhard Schroeder visited India for Annual Summit from 6-7 October 2004.

(b) The two sides had wide ranging discussions on bilateral cooperation, regional and international issues including UN Reform. In a strategic move, both India and Germany agreed to support each other's candidature in an expanded UNSC.

(c) Yes

(d) An MoU on cooperation in S & T was signed during the visit between Department of S & T and the Max Planck Society. The MoU will further boost cooperation in the key area of S & T with Germany.

(e) India attaches special importance to its relations with Germany and is eager to expand and intensify bilateral relations to a level befitting the strategic partnership between the two countries. The Agenda for Indo-German Partnership in the 21st Century, which both sides had adopted in May 2000, outlines strategic dimensions of the relationship. India and Germany have annual Summit level interactions.

COMMONWEALTH

(a) Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr. Donald McKinnon visited India from 27-29 October 2004. No Agreement was signed during the visit.

(b) Discussions focused on expanding India-Commonwealth relations, including in the area of technical assistance and support for small states, apart from regional and international issues of mutual concern and the preparations for the next CHOGM at Valletta (Malta) in 2005.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India is a founding member of the Commonwealth and has taken keen interest in promoting cooperation in Commonwealth fora, through greater involvement in exchange programmes and technical assistance.

MEXICO

(a) to (d) Dr. L.E. Derb, Foreign Minister of Mexico visited India from 13-14 August 2004. Decisions were taken on initiatives such as EXIM Bank Line of Credit, Joint Business Group, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement for increasing bilateral trade.

(e) The thrust of our policy in the Latin American and Caribbean regions is to strengthen and widen the existing relationship to realize greater political understanding to work together at bilateral and multilateral level, exploring ways to enhance trade and commerce. Initiatives are taken to engage regional groups for political dialogue. India has signed framework Agreement with regional groupings such as MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM and SICA covering the whole region.

VENEZUELA

(a) to (d) Mr. Jesus Arnaldo Perez, Foreign Minister of Venezuela visited India 1-2 September 2004. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Co-operation concerning the Diplomatic Corps training and Academies of the two countries was signed.

(e) The thrust of our policy in the Latin American and Caribbean regions is to strengthen and widen the existing relationship to realize greater political understanding to work together at bilateral and multilateral level, exploring ways to enhance trade and commerce. Initiatives are taken to engage regional groups for political dialogue. India has signed framework Agreement with regional groupings such as MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM and SICA covering the whole region.

SURINAM

(a) to (d) Ms. Marla E. Levens, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Suriname visited India 16-18 November, 2004 to attend the Indo-Suriname Joint Commissioner meeting. In this meeting, agreement was reached for expansion of co-operation and trade.

(e) The thrust of our policy in the Latin American and Caribbean regions is to strengthen and widen the existing relationship to realize greater political understanding to work together at bilateral and multilateral level, exploring ways to enhance trade and commerce. Initiatives are taken to engage regional groups for political dialogue. India has signed framework Agreement with regional groupings such as MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM and SICA covering the whole region.

[Translation]

Tuberculosis

160. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether every year 18 lakh people suffer from tuberculosis as reported in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated September 28, 2004;

(b) whether the largest number of people suffering from this disease belong to this country;

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

(d) whether the Government is planning to establish specialised hospitals in each State for treatment of this disease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that every year about 18 lakhs new cases of tuberculosis are occurring in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To control the disease, National TB Control programme is in operation in the country since 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, the Revised national TB Control programme, based on DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 85% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is more than double that of the earlier programme.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, more than 900 million population in 522 districts have now been covered. It is envisaged to cover the entire country by 2005 under the revised strategy.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Based on research evidence, domiciliary

treatment of TB patients has been found effective. Hospitalization of TB patients is not required except in very serious cases which can be taken care of in General Hospital and no separate TB hospitals are required. This will also help in reduction of stigma attached to TB.

[English]

Setting up of New Institutes on Health Care

161. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI :

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposed to start two IIT like new institutes on health care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also any plan to establish National Institute of Preventive Community Health to train specialists in preventive and community health in Country;

(d) if so, the details of the number of institutes to be established, location-wise;

(e) the amount allocated for establishment of this institute;

(f) whether any time schedule has been fixed for establishment of this institute; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (g) Keeping in view the paucity of good public health professionals in the country, mechanisms have been considered to strengthen the architecture of public health in India by establishing new institutes of public health of the level of IITs and IIMs and upscaling the existing institutions which provide training in public health. In this context, a 2-day National Consultation on "Institutes of Public Health in India: Moving from Concept to Reality" was held on 16-17 September, 2004 to work out modalities to take this initiative forward.

Development of Backward Areas

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

(a) the number of proposals sent to the Union Government by Maharashtra and other State Governments

for the development of tribal, rural, hilly and backward areas of these States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of proposals particularly with regard to tribal areas;

(c) whether the Union Government has cleared or considering to clear these proposals; and

(d) if so, the amount earmarked therefor separately by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (d) Financial Assistance is provided to the States including Maharashtra, under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of tribal, hilly, backward and rural areas being implemented by the Ministries of Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Agriculture, Water Resources, Department of Education etc. Some of the major Schemes/Programmes being implemented are : Swarna-jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Samagra Gram Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food for Work Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Tribal Sub-Plan, Grant-in-Aid under Article 275 (1), Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Western Ghat Development Programme etc. Under these Schemes/Programmes proposals are received from State Governments including Maharashtra and are considered by the concerned Ministries and Departments and funds provided accordingly.

Utilisation of Fund Under MPLAD Scheme

163. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

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

(a) the details of the projects launched during the last three years for which fund has been provided from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund;

(b) whether funds allocated for schemes under MPLADS during 2003-04 were not disbursed to the districts;

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

(d) the details of the funds actually disbursed to States, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) Funds have been released for creation of durable assets for the use of public at large which are recommended by the concerned Members of Parliament and sanctioned by the District Authorities. The list of projects include buildings for schools and libraries, provision of drinking water facilities, roads, bridges, sports stadia, community centres, crematoria, public toilets, drains, footpaths, bus stop, health centres, public irrigation and electrification projects and to purchase computers for Government educational institutions for the benefit of students at large. The details in this regard are available with the District Administrations.

(b) and (c) During the Financial Year 2003-04, Rs. 1580 crore budgeted amount and additional fund of Rs. 102 crore were released to the Districts.

(d) The State-wise details of the fund released during 2003-04 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) As and when eligible.

Statement

State-wise release of funds 2003-04

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	126
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	47
4.	Bihar	116.5
5.	Goa	8
6.	Gujarat	77.5
7.	Haryana	30.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	22
10.	Karnataka	88
11.	Kerala	63.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	87.5
13.	Maharashtra	136.5

1	2	3
14.	Manipur	6
15.	Meghalaya	7
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	5
18.	Orissa	69.5
19.	Punjab	57.5
20.	Rajasthan	70.5
21.	Sikkim	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	116.5
23.	Tripura	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	236
25.	West Bengal	139
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5
27.	Chandigarh	2
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
29.	Daman and Diu	2
30.	Delhi	22
31.	Lakshadweep	2
32.	Pondicherry	4
33.	Chhattisgarh	36
34.	Uttaranchal	14.5
35.	Jharkhand	49.5
Grand Total		1682

*Funds Released in the Last
Three Years under MPLADS*

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	1800
2002-03	1600
2003-04	1682

[Translation]

**Development of Internet Services
in Rajasthan**

164. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether the target of development work has been achieved as fixed by Rajasthan Telecom Circle; and

(c) if so, the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The amount allocated for the development of telecommunication and internet services in Rajasthan during each of the last three years is as under;

S.No.	Year	Amount
1.	2001-02	Rs. 631.64 Crores
2.	2002-03	Rs. 430.39 Crores
3.	2003-04	Rs. 374.73 Crores

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The amount spent on development of Telecommunication in Rajasthan during the last three years is as under:

S.No.	Year	Amount
1.	2001-02	Rs. 551.34 Crores
2.	2002-03	Rs. 503.01 Crores
3.	2003-04	Rs. 347.10 Crores
4.	2004-05 (Till 31.10.2004)	Rs. 117.75 Crores

[English]

Traffic Jam on Nizamuddin Bridge

165. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people commuting from Noida/ Ghaziabad to Delhi for work are often held in traffic jams during peak hours at Nizamuddin Bridge on the Pragati Maidan Road;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ease the traffic jams especially at peak hours on the Nizamuddin-Mathura road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Complaints Regarding
Disproportionate Assets**

166. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ Nos 2447 dated 4.12.2001 regarding corruption in Kendriya Bhandar and No. 2140 dated 5.8.2003 regarding complaints against employees of Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected on all the points taken up in those questions and if so, the details thereof, point-wise, together with the action taken, point-wise;

(b) the reasons for the delay in fulfilling the assurances and the steps that have been taken to ensure that such delays will not take place in future;

(c) the reasons for not forwarding the complaints of possession of disproportionate assets to CBI and Income-Tax authorities and by when those complaints will be forwarded to them including Crime Branch of Delhi Police;

(d) whether huge bank deposits and investments in securities and other benami properties have also come to notice of the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (e) The allegation relates to owning of property disproportionate to known source of income of Kendriya Bhandar employees. Under the provisions of MSCS Act, powers to act in management of affairs of Kendriya Bhandar vest in the Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar. Kendriya Bhandar has investigated an allegation against an employee but has not been able to come to a definite conclusion. The Government, has, therefore, issued a directive to the Kendriya Bhandar to refer the allegation to the CBI for investigation.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Doctors and Medicines
in Safdarjung Hospital**

167. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of doctors and medicines in the country especially in the Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware about the difficulties of the patients due to shortage of doctors and medicines;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortage of doctors and supply of medicines in the Safdarjung Hospital; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Government to Safdarjung Hospital for procurement of medicines during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Due to the instructions of the Government, the Department of Personnel and Training vide their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that the Direct Recruitment can be resorted only against 1/3 rd of the vacancies arising in a year subject to a further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength, this Department is not in a position to fill up all the posts of doctors in various Government hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital.

As it has been found difficult to apply these instructions for vacancies in Health Sector, Department of Health has already taken up the matter at the highest level seeing exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of the DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

Generally, there is no shortage of medicines in various Central Government Hospitals including Safdarjung Hospital. In these hospitals, medicines are distributed according to the formulary, free of cost, to patients, as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential life-saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to poor patients free of cost.

The funds allocated for procurement of medicines to Safdarjung Hospital during the last two years is as under:-

Year	Non-Plan	Plan
2002-03	540.00 lacs	05.00 lacs
2003-04	611.09 lacs	128.00 lacs

Illegal Selling of Medicines

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

(a) whether the medicines being to the Government hospitals for treatment of the poor are being sold in

open market in connivance with the hospital staff as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran', dated September 30, 2004;

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such illegal business; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to ensure that medicines supplied to the hospitals are used only for patient care. However, in so far as the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no incidence of sale of medicines meant for hospitals has been reported from Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC and associated Hospitals.

[English]

Shortage of Doctors in Safdarjung Hospital

169. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :
 SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
 SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
 SHRI KAILASH BAITHA :

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

- (a) whether the number of doctors in Cardiology, Department of Safdarjung Hospital is less than sanctioned resulting into longer time for the patients to be examined the treated;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to appoint more doctors so as to fill-up the deficiencies in their strength;
- (c) whether a 20 year old patient died recently in Safdarjung Hospital for want of defibrillator;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not having sufficient number of defibrillators;
- (e) whether the Head of Department of Cardiology refused to comment on the circumstances leading to the tragic death of a youngster;
- (f) if so, the reasons for his not commenting on the technical aspect of the tragedy; and
- (g) the action proposed to be taken against the Cardiology Head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Due to the instructions of the Government, the Department of Personnel and Training vide their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that the Direct Recruitment can be resorted only against 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in a year subject to a further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength, this Department is not in a position to fill up all the posts of doctors in various Government hospitals including the posts of Cardiologists in Safdarjung Hospital. As it has been found difficult to apply these instructions for vacancies in health Sector, Department of Health has already taken up the matter at the highest level seeing exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of the DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

(c) to (g) As per the information from Safdarjung Hospital, the patient was operated in the Department of Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery in Safdarjung Hospital and he died of thrombus occlusion of Mitral Valve Prosthesis leading to pulmonary edema and cardiogenic shock. He did not require defibrillation.

India-EU Summit

170. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
 SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister attended the Fifth European Union - India Annual Summit at Hague recently; and
- (b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes. Prime Minister led our delegation to the 5th India-EU Summit at the Hague on 8th November, 2004.

(b) An agreement was reached to launch an India-EU strategic partnership in recognition of the growing stature of India as a major regional and global player. India and the EU agreed to intensify consultations on a range of issues, including UN reforms, cooperation in terrorism, enhance parliamentary exchanges, cooperation in energy, environment and S & T. The Joint Press Statement that was adopted at the Summit reflects our shared understanding on various issues of mutual concern. A Joint Declaration on Cultural Cooperation provides a framework to enhance cooperation in culture, exchange of scholars & students. PM also had an interactive session with the India-EU Business RoundTable with an objective to enhance mutual trade & investments.

**Expressway from Kasargod to
Thiruvananthapuram**

171. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA :

SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala Government for building a new Expressway connecting Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details regarding the main features of this proposed Expressway and the estimated cost of construction;

(c) whether any environment impact study of the project has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Situation in Nankana Sahib

172. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sentiments of the Indian masses including Sikh community have been badly hurt due to the destructive incident by some fundamentalists in Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Devji, situated in Pakistan in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has expressed its concern by taking this matter up with Pakistan;

(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. AHMED) : (a) to (e) Government are aware of the incident involving attack on Gurudwara Nankana Sahib in September 2004. A number of communications condemning the attack have also been received from different quarters in India.

The Government took immediate notice of reports of

the attack on Gurudwara Nankana Sahib, and the official spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement made on September 28, 2004, had expressed the hope that the Government of Pakistan would take the necessary measures for the protection of this holy shrine. The matter was also taken up with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, and our High Commission in Islamabad raised the issue with the Pakistan Foreign Office.

The Government of Pakistan also condemned the incident and further stated that the miscreants would be firmly dealt with the accordance with law.

[English]

Village Public Telephones

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

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) allotted in each State during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a great irregularity in the allotment and use of such VPTs;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to review such cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) allotted in each State during last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Statement

*VPTs Allotted by BSNL to Circles/States during
the Last Three Years*

Sl. No.	Circle/State	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18	0	0
3.	Assam	2501	1007	1354
4.	Bihar	15612	9061	0

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Jharkhand	9980	9197	634
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4507	205	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	50	177	537
10.	Karnataka	4	6	0
11.	Kerala	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	312	0	4
13.	Chhattisgarh	3677	248	0
14.	Maharashtra (Includes GOA)	0	0	0
15.	North East -- I (Includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	368	389	847
16.	North -- II (Includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	147	135	907
17.	Orissa	10392	5078	318
18.	Punjab	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	33	0	0
20.	Tamil Nadu (Includes Pondicherry)	1	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	8179	6651	35
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	2402	0	0
23.	Uttaranchal	2162	1627	99
24.	West Bengal (Includes Sikkim)	10357	3147	0
25.	Kolkata	53	0	0
26.	Delhi	0	0	0
Total		70755	36929	4737

[Translation]

Promotion of Unani Medicines

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

(a) whether the Government is formulating any action plan for the promotion of Unani System of Medicine;

(b) if so, the achievements in this regard till date;

(c) the number of such dispensaries, State-wise and the facilities available therein;

(d) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to open Unani dispensaries; and

(e) if so, the names of the States and the decision 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) Government of India have laid down a separate National Policy for promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine including the Unani System of Medicine and introduced a number of central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Systems of Medicine. Financial support under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes is available for improvement of educational infrastructure, quality control facilities, supply of drugs etc. in accordance with the national policy under reference.

The achievements include establishment of National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore, opening of a new CGHS dispensary in Delhi, sanction of Rs. 3 crores for Government Nizamia Tibbia College, Hyderabad for its development as a Model College of Unani medicine, financial support @ Rs. 25,000/- per dispensary, per year, to a large number of Unani dispensaries in different States, opening of a Unani Medical Centre at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital etc.

There are 866 Unani dispensaries excluding those managed by the Central Government in the country, as follows:-

Andhra Pradesh	193
Assam	1
Bihar	110
Chhattisgarh	6
Delhi	25
Haryana	19
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jammu and Kashmir	177
Jharkhand	18
Karnataka	51
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	50
Maharashtra	23
Orissa	9
Punjab	35
Rajasthan	78
Tamil Nadu	12

Uttar Pradesh	49
Uttaranchal	3
West Bengal	3

Details of facilities available in the State dispensaries are not maintained, centrally, by the Government of India.

(d) and (e) Public Health, hospitals and dispensaries being a State subject vide Entry No. 6 of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is for the State Government to establish dispensaries of Unani medicine depending upon their resources and requirements. On its part, the Central Government operate a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that provides for financial assistance to supply drugs @ Rs. 25,000/- per annum, per dispensary, if suitable proposals are received from the State Governments.

[English]

**Increase in the Availability
of Telephone**

175. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

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

(a) whether availability of Telephones in the country has increased tremendously;

(b) if so, the percentage of Indian population using telephones in the country;

(c) whether the customers of MTNL and BSNL landline have reduced considerably in the recent past;

(d) if so, the number of customers as on July 2003 and July, 2004 of both MTNL and BSNL in the country, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the said Government agencies more competitive with private operators in the field?

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

(b) Number of telephone lines per 100 population i.e. teledensity in the country as on 30.9.04 was 8.03.

(c) Whereas there has been a net addition of landline telephones in respect of BSNL during the past 3 years, however, as regards MTNL, there has been some reduction in the landline customers in Delhi and Mumbai in the recent past.

(d) Number of MTNL customers as on 31.7.03 and 31.7.04 are as follows :-

	Delhi		Mumbai	
	31.7.03	31.7.04	31.7.03	31.7.04
Landline	21,45,717	18,69,774	23,76,542	23,25,748
WLL	45,860	84,808	51,286	63,967
GSM	1,28,928	2,05,170	1,65,712	2,24,201

Circle wise telephone figures in respect of BSNL as on 31.7.2003 and as on 31.07.2004 are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) In order to become more competitive both MTNL and BSNL are taking several initiatives including introduction of new services, modernizing and upgrading the existing network, offering competitive tariffs and improving customer care etc.

Statement

Circle wise DELs as on 31.07.2003 and 31.07.2004

S.N.	Name of Circle/Metro Districts	As on 31.7.2003		As on 31.7.2004	
		Land Line DELs	Total DELs Including WLL & Cellular	Land Line DELs	Total DELs including WLL & Cellular
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35711	40699	37422	45693
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3195647	3565978	3150441	3830261
3.	Assam	488213	500397	498555	581732

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	847120	1015767	862333	1140052
5.	Chhattisgarh	276090	323553	279034	361942
6.	Gujarat	2858576	3191242	2710707	3252047
7.	Haryana	1080172	1214745	1092545	1362462
8.	Himachal Pradesh	459438	505119	469206	571914
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	266601	271318	287252	349636
10.	Jharkhand	417832	499029	436337	581455
11.	Karnataka	2729828	3026492	2681744	3165541
12.	Kerala	3039578	3346488	3230063	3797599
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1240134	1357653	1285068	1499255
14.	Maharashtra	3866888	4281776	3820779	4551071
15.	North East - 1	190573	195432	196410	221668
16.	North East - 2	143673	146874	149925	175989
17.	Orissa	714090	864852	741776	1013981
18.	Punjab	2035245	2258183	1982236	2321907
19.	Rajasthan	1721663	1888259	1751583	2138715
20.	Tamil Nadu	2842052	3188622	2838792	3315811
21.	Uttaranchal	341358	399508	354505	486693
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	1686214	1980263	1647711	2178569
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	1226776	1416916	1222990	1597500
24.	West Bengal	1132819	1272743	1186590	1446203
25.	Kolkatta	1326317	1362605	1358122	1515833
26.	Chennai	1050595	1157847	994447	1208460
	BSNL	35213203	39271370	35266573	42711969

Private Telephone Operators

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

(a) whether there is any clause in the licensing agreement signed by the private telephone operators which makes it mandatory for them to provide telephone activities in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private telephone operators are supposed to pay any penalty in case they do not adhere to the terms and condition set out in the agreement regarding provision of telephones in rural areas;

(d) if so, the quantum of penalty imposed on them for escaping from their rural telephony commitments;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to discourage this attitude of the private players; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a clause for coverage of rural areas in the licence agreement signed by private Basic Telephone Licensee.

(b) Details are as below :-

(i) The six private basic telephone operators, who were granted licences in 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas in their respective service area.

(ii) For the Licences granted in 2001-02 stipulated coverage of Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in equal proportion in each phase in each category of urban, semi-urban and rural SDCAs in a service area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has recovered liquidated damages to the tune of Rs. 53.75 Crores from private basic telephone service operators for non-fulfillment of roll out obligations in terms of commencement of service as well as in provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines (DELS) and VPTs.

(e) and (f) At present no legislation to discourage this attitude of private players is under consideration. The performance Bank Guarantees of higher amount were stipulated in Basic Service Licences. Further, new Unified Access Service Licence stipulates penalty to the tune of Rs. 50 Crores for breach of Licence conditions apart from performance Bank Guarantee for Roll-out obligations.

Family Welfare Strategy

177. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has lately reviewed and revised the family welfare strategy of the country in view of the census figures 2001; and

(b) if so, the major changes and modifications brought about in the family planning strategies and the details of the revised strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Census figures for 2001 indicates that average annual rate of growth of population has come down to 1.93 for the period 1991-2001 as compared to 2.14 for the period 1981-91. Thus, the Government aims to continue its strategy of voluntary approach to Family Planning, with increased access to quality family planning services.

Foreign Investment in I.T. Sector

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

(a) whether the Government has established collaboration with some Foreign Companies in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details of Foreign Companies; and

(c) the details of the collaborations made in the IT sector with these Foreign Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) The Government grants appropriate approvals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by the Foreign companies to establish commercial presence in India through the automatic route and Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). FDI of about US\$ 5.5 billion has been approved by the Government during 1991 to 2003 in the IT hardware and software sector.

The details of the companies, collaborations and investment proposed are published in the monthly news letter of the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA), Department of Industry Promotion and Policy (DIPP). This SIA news letter is widely circulated within the Government departments/ministries including the Parliament Library.

Development of Inland Waterways

179. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals regarding development of inland waterways on the basis of highways under the National Highways Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of Anesthesiologists

180. SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :

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

(a) whether the capital hospital are facing acute shortage of anesthesiologists due to lack of trained men and brain drain;

(b) if so, the details of the post of anesthesiologists lying vacant in each of the hospitals of the capital; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to ensure that there is no shortage of skilled manpower in their hospitals. However, in so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, due to instructions of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India vide their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that the Direct Recruitment can be reported only against 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in a year subject to a further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength, this Department is not in a position to fill up all the posts of doctors in various Government hospitals including the posts of Anesthesiologists. As it has been found difficult to apply these instructions for vacancies in Health Sector, Department of Health has already taken up the matter at the highest level seeking exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of the DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

[Translation]

Indo-Pakistan Peace Initiatives

181. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV :
 SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
 SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
 SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO :
 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
 SHRI ARJUN SETHI :
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
 SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :
 SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our PM met the Pakistan President during his recent visit to USA;

(b) if so, the details of confidence building measures discussed by the two leaders;

(c) whether any agreement was reached for a peaceful final settlement of all the outstanding issues pending between the two countries including the J and K issue;

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

(e) whether a discussion on laying of oil-gas pipeline between Iran and India via Pakistan figured in the said talk;

(f) if so, the current status of the said proposal; and

(g) the details of concrete steps agreed upon to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (g) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Musharraf on September 24, 2004 on the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

They, inter alia, discussed bilateral issues. Prime Minister emphasized upon the criticality of the fulfillment of President Musharraf's reassurance of January 6, 2004 not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

The two leaders agreed that Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) will contribute to generating an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, and that CBMs of all categories under discussion between the two governments should be implemented keeping in mind practical possibilities.

They agreed that possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir should be explored in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also conveyed to President Musharraf that India was ready to look at various options for resolving the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, but there could be no redrawing of boundaries or another partition of the country.

They also agreed to look at the possibility of a gas pipeline to India via Pakistan in the larger context of expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries.

In the Joint Statement issued after the meeting on September 24, 2004 both leaders reiterated their commitment to continue with the bilateral dialogue to restore normalcy and cooperation between India and Pakistan.

[English]

Surplus Coal to States

182. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of the Planning Commission for captive coal mines developers to allow them to sell the surplus coal to the States to run coal companies;

(b) whether the plan panel wants the Governments to open up the trading in coal to private players or continue monopoly of the public sector;

(c) if so, whether the Government has accepted this proposal; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Tenth plan envisaged to remove coal from the list of Essential Commodities in order to allow free sale and to withdraw Colliery Control Order 2000 along with Coal Control Orders of the State Governments. The Ministry of Coal has agreed to removal of coal from the list of Essential Commodities in the Essential Commodities Act. The Central Government has issued Colliery Control Rules, 2004 under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 as this has been considered necessary keeping in view the role of coal at present in the country.

National Common Minimum Programmes

183. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up

7 inter-ministerial task forces to act in various areas of National Common Minimum Programmes;

(b) whether all these groups have so far submitted their recommendations to the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cases Registered by CBI

184. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered by CBI under prevention of Corruption Act during the last three years and the number of them against IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS officers separately, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them in which the CBI has been able to procure conviction during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide clean and corruption free administration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) The number of cases registered by CBI under Prevention of Corruption Act during the last three years are as under :-

Years	2001	2002	2003	2004 upto 31 Oct, 04
Cases registered	701	761	707	639
IAS	9	2	9	4
IPS	1	-	2	1
IFS	-	-	-	1
IRS	10	16	9	22

CBI having all India jurisdiction and most of the cases registered by CBI also having inter state ramifications, it is not possible to segregate the officers involved in the cases state-wise.

(b) The number of cases, out of the cases registered from 1.1.2001 to 31.10.2004, ended in conviction during the last three years are as under :-

Years	2001	2002	2003	2004 upto 31 Oct, 04
Conviction	-	7	21	26

(c) The provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are self sufficient to provide clean and corruption free administration in the country.

**Centre for Training in Policy
and Management**

185. SHRI B MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centre has been established at Bangalore to provide high quality training in policy and management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has been set up with grant/ assistance from UNDP;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Centre collaborates with any other institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the activities undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Public Policy has been set up at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore with support from UNDP. The Centre has been functioning since 2002. The Centre has been funded as under :-

1. Government of India budgetary support for infrastructure - Rs. 8.82 crore, of which Rs. 7.61 crore has been released.
2. UNDP assistance of US\$ 2.159 million for a long duration programme for three years, faculty development and equipment support etc. of this US\$ 1.79 million has been released.
3. National contribution of IIM, Bangalore - Rs. 12.27 crore in the form of land and faculty resources.

A long duration Post-Graduate programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM) has already started at this Centre from June 2002. The third batch of participants is currently undergoing the program. Each batch has about 30 participants.

(e) and (f) The Centre Collaborates with Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, University of Syracuse, USA for delivering a seven-week module on 'International comparative public policy'. This module is an integral part of the PGPPM and provides opportunities to learn from alternatives systems of public management based on a comparative study of other countries.

**Telephone Exchanges in Rural
Areas of Gujarat**

186. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : 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 Gujarat and Karnataka;

(b) whether there are any pending Telephone Exchanges to be set up in different districts of these States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) 2,750 rural telephone exchanges in Gujarat and 2,202 exchanges in Karnataka circle are working in rural areas in all districts of these States.

(b) to (d) In Gujarat State three new telephone exchanges in rural areas at Vadala (Junagadh SSA), Vandhiya (Bhuj) and Vaarsamedi Welspan site (Bhuj) are planned to be opened by March, 2005, subject to availability of equipment. No new exchanges are planned to be opened in Karnataka State during the current financial year.

Growth Rate in SSI Sector

187. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to enable Small Scale Industries in the country to become competitive in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target of growth rate of small scale industries during the current plan period has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the plans formulated to achieve the targeted growth rate of small scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI

MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Small Scale Industries (SSIs) continue to contribute around 34 per cent of the current exports from the country, which indicates their continuing competitiveness in the foreign markets. The steps taken by Government to ensure that SSIs remain competitive in the global markets, include inter-alia the scheme of assistance in acquiring ISO 9000 certification, Quality Awards, export-related Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and subsidizing participation in international fairs/exhibitions. Besides, steps have also been taken to ensure easier access to credit, collateral - free loans of upto Rs. 25 lakh, capital subsidy for technology upgradation, Improved infrastructure and individual assistance for participation in overseas fairs, study tours and production of overseas publicity materials under SSI-Market Development Assistance Scheme.

(c) and (d) The target of growth rate of small scale industries during the current Plan period has been fixed at 12%. To achieve the target during the plan, the Government is providing support in respect of credit, technology, marketing and infrastructural development to the SSI sector.

Allotment of Mobile PCOs to Handicapped

188. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the allotment of mobile PCO for the handicapped in the country;

(b) if so, the number of PCO allotted to handicapped in Orissa and other States so far; and

(c) the target set by BSNL during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) While MTNL has framed a policy for allotment of Mobile PCO to handicapped persons in Delhi and Mumbai, there is no such policy in BSNL for rest of the country.

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

Financial Assistance for setting up of SSI's

189. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested the Union Government for setting up of Small Scale Industries in different parts of the State with the financial help of the centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial help given to various States particularly Maharashtra by the Union Government during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The setting up of small scale industries is an activity of individual entrepreneurs. The development of small scale industries sector is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments through implementation of various schemes relating to enhanced fiscal and credit support, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc., which are implemented across the country, including Maharashtra. The allocation of funds is made scheme-wise, not State-wise. Under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, full amount of Central grant of Rs. 200 lakh was released for setting up IID Centre at Ghatodi, District Yavatmal Maharashtra. Another proposal for setting up of an IID Centre at village Sangavi, District Satara, Maharashtra has been received recently and is being examined in accordance with the provisions of the IID Scheme.

[Translation]

Dengue Cases

190. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dengue cases reported in the Government Hospitals till date;

(b) whether the Government has appointed any medical team to check dengue in the States;

(c) if so, the amount to be incurred by the Government, State-wise on this account;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance for the scheme in order to give free treatment to patients living below poverty line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The number of dengue cases reported upto 19th November, 2004 in Govt. Hospitals in different States is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) A team of experts comprising

epidemiologists, microbiologists, entomologists and physicians in constituted and deputed to the States for investigation of reported outbreaks of vector borne diseases including dengue. The expenditure on visits of the team is met by the respective institution and no separate fund is allocated for this purpose.

(d) and (e) There is no specific anti-viral drug for treatment of dengue and cases are managed symptomatically. Efforts have been directed to provide technical support and strengthen capacity of States through training of medical and para-medical functionaries.

Statement

State-wise Dengue Cases Reported during the year 2004

Sl. No.	State	Year 2004 (Prov. Upto 19th November, 2004)	
		Cases	Death
1.	Andhra Pradesh	169	1
2.	Bihar	0	0
3.	Chandigarh	0	0
4.	Delhi	439	3
5.	Goa	3	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0
7.	Haryana	16	0
8.	Karnataka	213	2
9.	Kerala	629	8
10.	Maharashtra	371	9
11.	Sikkim	7	0
12.	Punjab	2	0
13.	Rajasthan	142	5
14.	Tamil Nadu	490	0
15.	Uttar Pradesh	4	0
16.	Pondicherry	0	0
Total		2485	28

Extension of Communication Facilities

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

(a) whether alleged irregularities have been committed during extension of communication facilities in various States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of contractors given contracts during the last three year, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount spent on laying of telephone cables during the said period?

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

Loss in KVIC

192. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is running in loss for the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the revival of these units; and

(d) the year-wise financial assistance provided by the Government to the said Commission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is not a commercial organisation. However, in the course of its promotional activities, the KVIC undertakes some trading activities to market Khadi and Village Industries products. The losses incurred in the trading operations during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
2001-02	1.06
2002-03	1.13
2003-04	1.31

(c) The Government, as part of its National Common Minimum Programme, has decided to take steps to revamp the KVIC.

(d) The year-wise financial assistance provided by the Government to the KVIC during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
2001-02	182.18
2002-03	340.55
2003-04	423.60

[English]

CBI Raids

193. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :
 SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN :
 SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
 SHRI UDAY SINGH :
 SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CBI has conducted raids in various parts of the country during September, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against the persons found guilty during the said raids so far?

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

(b) CBI conducted raids at several places on 29.09.2004 as a part of Special Drive. 65 cases were registered in this drive which involved 88 Government Servants and 142 private persons/firms.

(c) Investigations in all these cases are in progress and further action will be taken as per law on the basis of evidence collected during investigation.

[Translation]

Setting up of Trauma Centre in George Medical University

194. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had allocated financial assistance for equipments, ambulance, civil works, communication in order to set up a Trauma Centre at the King George Medical University (King George Medical College) situated at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on January 30, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the King George Medical University, Lucknow has established the Trauma Centre with the Central financial assistance;

(d) if so, the latest details thereof;

(e) the amount of central funds spent by the King George Medical University, Lucknow, on the ambulance, civil works, communication, equipment separately in the Trauma Centre;

(f) whether the Union Government is aware of the alleged misuse of the funds allocated for the above Trauma Centre;

(g) if so, whether the Union Government by constituting a high level committee at the Union level has conducted or proposed to conduct any enquiry into illegal misuse of above funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released an amount of Rs. 1.50 crores to Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow during the year 2000-01.

(c) to (e) The 'utilization certificate' of funds released to Government of Uttar Pradesh has not been received so far. However, details of the amount spent by the Institute on various components in Trauma Centre and any illegal misuse of the funds sanctioned for the purpose are being called from the State authorities.

(f) to (h) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not received any complaint in this respect.

[English]

Seats in Medical Colleges

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from the Government of Orissa for increasing the MBBS seats in its three Government Medical Colleges, namely SCB Medical College, Cuttack, VSS Medical College, Burea and MKCS College, Berhampur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Central Government is permitting increase in MBBS seats under the provision of IMC Act and the Regulations made there under. Under these provisions, proposals were received from Government of Orissa seeking permission for increase in seats in Government Medical College at Cuttack, Burla and Berhampur. On the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, permission for increase of seats from 107 to 150 at SCB Medical College, Cuttack was granted for the year 2003-04. However, the college could not provide requisite facilities for renewal of permission for admission of 2nd batch during 2004-05 and, therefore, permission could not be renewed. The proposals for increase in seats in medical colleges at Burla and Berhampur were, however, disapproved since as per the report of Medical Council of India, required facilities were not available in these colleges for the proposed increase.

[Translation]

Proposals under PMRY

196. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the States under the "Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana".

(b) the number of proposals approved by the Government and the number of pending proposals and the percentage thereof;

(c) the reason for delay in clearing the said proposals;

(d) whether the responsibility has been fixed for depriving rural poor from employment opportunities; and

(e) if not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, 89163 proposals (applications) have been received by the implementing banks from the States/Union Territories (UTs) upto 30.09.2004 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the year 2004-05.

(b) 33,271 proposals (applications) have been sanctioned by the implementing banks and 34,791 proposals (applications) constituting 39.02 percent of the total number of proposals (applications) received are pending for approval upto 30.09.2004.

(c) As per the guidelines issued by the Government, sponsoring of cases should be 125 per cent of the target. Hence, at any given point of time, some applications are likely to be pending with the banks. The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions that all pending eligible applications are to be considered by the implementing banks and should be disposed of as per the time-schedule prescribed for disposing of the applications under the PMRY.

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

[English]

Indo-Bhutan Group on Border Management

197. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bhutan have agreed to undertake specific measures to strengthen security along the border, including the deployment of SSB forces from the Indian side;

(b) if so, whether this agreement was reached during the External Affairs Minister's visit to that country;

(c) if so, whether both countries have expressed satisfaction on the formation of a bilateral group on border management and security;

(d) if so, whether the Bhutan Government has assured that there will be no militant camp in Bhutan that conducts anti-India activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (e) Royal Bhutan Army undertook successful military operations in December 2003 and January 2004 to flush out Indian Insurgent Groups located in Southern and Eastern Bhutan. As a result of the operations, 30 camps belonging to ULFA, NDFB and KLO were destroyed. The Government of India stood firmly behind the Royal Government of Bhutan, providing all the requested logistical support, till the completion of operation.

Government of India is committed to providing all security assistance to Bhutan required to prevent and minimise any adverse fallout of the flush out operations. SSB is being deployed along the India-Bhutan border. It is also providing convoy protection of Bhutanese vehicles transiting through Assam. To strengthen cooperation on security issues, a Joint India-Bhutan Border Security Group has been

set up under the Home Ministers of the two countries, and two fruitful meetings have been held in March and September 2004. There is close interaction between security agencies of India and Bhutan. There is also effective coordination between bordering districts of India and Bhutan.

During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Bhutan in October 2004 and other high level meetings between the two countries, both sides have expressed satisfaction at the working of the joint mechanism and ongoing cooperation between the two countries.

Royal Government of Bhutan has assured us that insurgent groups would not be allowed to use Bhutanese territory for activities against India.

New Port Policy

198. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a new policy for major ports;

(b) if so, whether the policy strives to promote both inter-port and intra-port competition;

(c) if so, by when the new policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) the main objectives of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) A comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector which includes Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport is under finalization.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No specific time frame has been laid down for announcement of the policy.

(d) The objectives are as follows :

(i) Modernizing the existing ports and upgrading their facilities in order to bring them on par with the leading ports of the world.

(ii) Developing new ports in order to fully utilize the vast coastline of the country and the available draft for deriving the maximum economic advantage.

(iii) Promoting hinterland connectivity to ensure least-distance access of the country's cargo to the ports and also offer choice of ports in the region and terminals inside the ports to Trade.

(iv) Fostering Port specialization and inter-port complementarity for overall optimization of port facilities and the efficiency at the Ports.

(v) Facilitating the increased flow of private investment, both domestic and foreign, and at the same time ensure a competitive environment that would preclude prospects of emergence of monopolies.

(vi) Providing for institutional safeguards for the port infrastructure provider (public authorities/private sector - be it domestic or foreign/joint ventures/ regarding investments and ensuring compliance of service standards to the users.

(vii) Promoting multimodal transport in the interest of time and cost efficiency.

(viii) Facilitating the acquisition of Indian tonnage for securing a significant share for the country in world tonnage and for increasing the share of Indian bottoms in the carriage of the country's overseas traffic through cargo support to Indian flag vessels.

(ix) Promoting and strengthening ship-building, ship-repair and ship-breaking activities including promotion on indigenous ship design and research.

(x) Providing the necessary infrastructure for turning our qualified Indian maritime personnel of globally acknowledged excellence to benefit from the growing demand of both foreign and Indian flag vessels for such human capital.

(xi) Developing and integrating inland waterways to the national transport network comprising of maritime outlets as well as other points of interface with other surface transport modes.

(xii) Building appropriate institutions to support Training, R & D and other activities necessary to sub-serve and sustain the Shipping and Port sectors.

(xiii) Assuring the state of the art Aids to Navigation at the country's coastline with a view to encourage increased flow of coastal and overseas maritime traffic at Indian ports.

*[Translation]***Retired Telecommunication Officials
In Private Companies**

199. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecommunication officials are enrolling themselves in private companies immediately after their retirement or after obtaining VRS as reported in the Hindi daily Dainik Jagran Dated November 19, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take action against these officials according to rules after conducting an enquiry; and

(c) if so, the time by when the said action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Funds for Andhra Pradesh**

200. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual plan allocations of Andhra Pradesh are much less than proposed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to give more fund to meet expenditure on the schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) No, Sir. The size of the State Plan for Andhra Pradesh for 2004-05 has been finalized as Rs. 12,790.42 crores on the basis of resources and identified requirements after consultations between the Planning Commission and the State Government.

(b) to (d) Does not apply.

*[Translation]***Funds for Ayurvedic System of Medicine**

201. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds earmarked for Ayurvedic System of Medicine is less during the current year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether various organisations associated with this system have requested the Government to increase the funds; and

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

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Extension of MTNL Services**

202. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has worked out any plan to extend its services in Usmanabad district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred therein; and

(c) the time by which this extension of services is likely to be completed by the MTNL?

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

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

Laying of Information

203. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer given to Unstarred Nos. 5141, 1241, and 21 dated April 25, 2003, July 29, 2003 and December 2, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been laid on the Table of the House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the said information is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : (a) to (d) The issues involved in the questions under reference are being processed in consultation with concerned Departments/agencies etc., and the assurances given would be fulfilled as soon as possible.

Contract Research Organisations

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

- (a) the action being taken to control the Mushrooming Contract Research Organisation;
- (b) the steps being taken by the DCGI for accreditation of this CROs; and
- (c) the preventive measures being taken so that the Indian patients are not made Guinea Pigs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Good Clinical Practices (GCP) guidelines for clinical trials on pharmaceutical products in India issued by Ministry of Health describes Contract Research Organisations (CRO) as follows:-

"An organization to which the sponsor may transfer or delegate some or all of the tasks, duties and/or obligations regarding a Clinical Study. All such contractual transfers of obligations should be defined in writing. A CRO is a scientific body-commercial, academic or other".

Presently, there is no provision under Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules, for accreditation of CRO, however, the Schedule 'Y' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, and the 'Good Clinical Practices' guidelines issued by this Ministry, have provisions prescribing norms to be followed whenever clinical trials with Indian patients are carried out.

Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

205. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to expand the system of telephone exchanges installed in Karnataka during 2004-05;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location wise;
- (c) the total number of telephone exchanges upgraded during the last three years; and

(d) the telephone exchanges proposed to be upgraded during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two new exchanges have been planned to be installed during 2004-05 in Karnataka.

(b) Location wise details are as below :-

1. Kerady (Mangalore SSA)
2. Kenjala (Mangalore SSA)

(c) The total number of telephone exchanges upgraded during the last three years :-

	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004
Number of new exchanges opened	132	66	10
Number of exchanges upgraded	1555	953	845

(d) 961 C-DOT 256 Port RAX are planned to be upgraded to AN RAX during the current year.

UNDP Project

206. SHRI PARSHURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where the UNDP funded pilot project has been launched on community initiative in the health sector;
- (b) the brief outline of the said project;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to submit a proposal before UNDP to extend the project to every State;
- (d) is so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the response of UNDP thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted pilot project on "Community Initiatives for Health" was launched in 1999-2000 in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Delhi and Karnataka. UNDP has provided financial assistance of US \$ 2 million for the project, which has got three components, namely school health, community health care

financing and multi-sectoral approach to health. The School Health Component in Kerala is rural based and looks at the issue of learning disability while in Delhi (urban based) it focuses at the issue of ill health and absenteeism. The School health project taken up in hundred schools of Delhi has been completed. Community Health care financing component in Karnataka and West Bengal focuses on pilot models for health care safety nets for the economically weaker sections of the society so as to improve access to primary health care. The multi-sectoral approach to health component in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal focuses on development of district health plans which respond to the needs identified by the communities through empowerment of communities as well as the local government entities.

(c) to (e) Presently, no such proposal is under consideration to extend the project to other States.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Psychiatrists

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are approximately 6 crore people in India suffering from one mental ailment or the other and only about 3600 psychiatrists are there in the country for the treatment of these diseases;

(b) whether the Government would take a decision to recruit more psychiatrists as according to statistics the psychiatrists patients ratio is 1 : 16000;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorder. There are over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country.

The efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system. For this purpose under the National Mental Health Programme, the General Duty Medical Officers are given short term training in the field of psychiatry for handling cases of mental illness.

Meningitis

208. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States listed as prone to meningitis in the country every year;

(b) whether the Government has any statistics regarding deaths caused by meningitis every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) As per the data maintained by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the number of deaths caused by meningitis in the country during the last three years State wise enclosed as statement.

Statement

Number of reported deaths to Meningococcal Meningitis

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49	86	33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	-
3.	Assam	0	-	-
4.	Bihar	0	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	-	-
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0	3
8.	Haryana	7	2	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	4	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	-	-
12.	Karnataka	10	9	26
13.	Kerala	4	1	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	8	6
15.	Maharashtra	96	70	38
16.	Manipur	0	8	6
17.	Meghalaya	18	16	8
18.	Mizoram	1	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	2	13	0
21.	Punjab	28	1	0
22.	Rajasthan	39	35	0

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Sikkim	0	0	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	0
25.	Tripura	1	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	0	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2	4	0
28.	West Bengal	500	292	69
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	16	6	6
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	50	48	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	12	16	3
Total		851	632	205

[English]

Upgradation of Mental Hospital

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

(a) whether despite Apex Court's order to upgrade the Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoloi Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur the institute has been suffering from want of funds and delay in release of funds;

(b) if so, whether any proposals for upgradation and modernisation of this Institute, one of the oldest Institutes of Psychiatry, have been pending with the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order made in October, 1994 directed that the erstwhile Tezpur Mental Hospital, then under the Government of Assam, now called the LGB Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, should be placed in the hands of Board of

Administrators and that 50% of the fund requirement will be made by the Union of India and 50% by the North Eastern Council of States. Accordingly, as projected by Government of Assam, the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided a grant of Rs. 2 crores each during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Institute has since been taken over by the Eastern Council under the Department of Development of North Eastern Region of the Central Government. The details of funds released to the Institute by the North Eastern Council and Government of Assam are indicated below :-

North Eastern Council	2002-03	: Rs. 4.90 crores
	2003-04	: Rs. 1.70 crores
Government of Assam	2002-03	: Rs. 4.90 crores
	2003-04	: Rs. 1.70 crores

Telephone Exchanges/Post Offices In West Bengal

210. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices opened in Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal;

(b) the places where new telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices are proposed to be opened during 2004-05 in Jalpaiguri;

(c) the number of proposals under consideration of the Government for setting up of post offices and sub-post offices in Jalpaiguri; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) There are 58 Telephone Exchanges, 2 Head Post Offices, 57 Sub Post Offices 16 Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and 226 Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBO) opened in Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal.

(b) There is no proposal to open any new telephone exchange, Post Office, Sub Post Office in 2004-2005.

(c) Nil.

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

Amendment of Food Adulteration Act

211. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is going to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to bring water under its purview;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such a bill is likely to be brought forward by the Government; and

(d) the main aim of bringing water under the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare proposes to amend the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, so as to bring drinking water also within the purview of the said act.

The proposal has been initiated to ensure the supply of safe water to public for drinking purposes and for use in the manufacture of different articles of food. The aforesaid proposal of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is to be considered by a Group of Ministers to be constituted for the purpose as per the directions of the Cabinet.

[Translation]

Mysterious Fever in Uttar Pradesh

212. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a kind of mysterious fever is raging in many districts of Uttar Pradesh as reported in the Hind daily Nav Bharat Times dated October 30, 2004;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the investigation report;

(e) whether the Government propose to formulate any effective policy to check such mysterious diseases; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (f) Fever and deaths due to encephalitis in the districts of Saharanpur and Baghpat have been reported to the Ministry of Health and F.W. Govt. of India by the health authorities of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, 156 cases amongst children including 111 deaths (as on 30th November, 2004) due to encephalitis were reported from 25th September, 2004.

In district Baghpat (Block Khekra), 13 deaths were reported from 28th September to 23rd October, 2004 No death has been reported thereafter.

The primary responsibility of instituting medical care and public health measures vests with the State Govt. The Central Govt. extends technical support as and when required.

On the request of the State Govt. a multi-disciplinary Central Team comprising experts from Central Govt. Hospital, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, National Vector Borne Disease Control Program, National Institute of Virology (Indian Council of Medical Research) investigated these cases in Saharanpur and Baghpat districts.

The clinical, epidemiological, entomological and serological investigations suggested that the outbreaks were due to acute viral encephalitis.

Guidelines on public health measures have been sent to district and State health authorities by the Central Govt.

[English]

Status of Apex Health Care Institutes

213. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of all Six Apex Healthcare Institutes being set up in Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh;

(b) the details of the budget of each Institute;

(c) the expenditure already incurred on these institutes;

(d) whether any time schedule has been fixed for completion of all these Institutes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The proposal to set up six AIIMS like institutions under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna has been considered by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 24-11-2004 and will now be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for approval. Pending approval, start-up activities like construction of boundary wall, the process for selection of Project Consultant for providing

comprehensive consultancy services and selection of architectural concepts/designs for AIIMS like institution have been started.

(b) and (c) The tentative cost of setting up each institute comes around Rs. 284.50 crores and annual estimated recurring cost on salaries, maintenance etc., comes to Rs. 60 crores per institute Rs. 6 crores have been spent on boundary wall construction.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The hospitals are expected to become operational after three years from the date of commencement of construction.

Privatisation of Ports

214. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to privatise ports in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is proposing to set up new port between Murmugao and JNPT on Konkan coast in Maharashtra to handle heavy traffic; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to privatize major ports in the country which are under the administrative control of the Central Government. Ports, other than major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective maritime State Governments.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration to set up a new major port between Murmugao and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports on Konkan Coast.

Criteria for Poverty

215. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the criteria for declaring poor in Indian Official Poverty Line is lowest after China in the world;
- (b) if so, the criteria laid down for determining poverty line; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken to take

care of basic needs of India's poor as is being done by China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Planning Commission is not aware of any basis by which it can be said that the criteria for declaring poor in Indian Official poverty Line is lowest after China in the world. The poverty lines of countries cannot usually be compared since, the factors taken into accounts to determine the poverty line may be different for countries.

(b) The poverty line is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc.

The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norms has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural area and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per capita per month in urban areas.

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

In order to take care of basic needs of India's poor at the village level, an initiative in the form of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched. The PMGY envisages Additional Central Assistance for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas of the Government. These include primary health, primary education, rural shelter, drinking water, rural electrification and nutrition.

In addition, with effect from June, 1997 the Public Distribution system in India was streamlined by issuing special cards to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) and selling foodgrains under PDS to them at specially subsidised prices which was about 50% of the economic costs. Under the new scheme, viz., the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) each poor family is entitled to 35 kgs of foodgrains.

In order to make the TPDS more focused and targeted towards the very poor category, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. In the budget for 2004-2005 presented on 8-7-04 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 1.5 crore families to 2.0 crore families.

[Translation]

Rural Telecom Service in Singhbhum

216. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural telecommunication work in Western Singhbhum and Eastern Singhbhum is not being carried out satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of mobile phones; and

(d) the number of mobile phones increased during the last three years?

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

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

(c) To increase the number of mobile phones, following steps have been taken:-

(i) Universal Access Services License (UASL) guide lines have been issued,

(ii) License Fee has been reduced;

(iii) Spectrum Charges to be reckoned on revenue sharing basis.

(d) The number of Cellular Mobile Subscribers (including CDMA) for the last three years are as given below:-

Total mobile connections as on 31.03.2002	64,31,520
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Total mobile connections as on 31.03.2003	1,40,56,393
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Total mobile connections as on 31.3.2004	3,33,11,561
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[English]

Construction of Bridge in Goa

217. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goa has sought permission from the Ministry for the construction of the Galgibarg to Talpona bridge at Canacona in South Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tenders have been in this regard invited so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A preliminary proposal has been received from PWD, Goa for construction of these two bridges namely, Galgibarg and Talpona in South Goa.

(b) PWD, Goa has been asked to firm up the technical details of the entire project and to furnish the financial analysis details clearly demonstrating as to how these two projects can be financially viable on BOT basis.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Mashelkar Committee on Regulatory Issues

218. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2279 on 6.8.2003 and state:

(a) whether Dr. R.A. Mashelkar Committee has made any efforts to consider the views of small scale bulk drugs units while looking into various regulatory issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large scale unit lobbies have been successful in imposing their view points which involve financial burden on small scale units; and

(d) if so, the details of small units visited by this Committee and the steps taken by them to protect the interest of the common man and support the small scale units in its efforts to lower prices of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) During the deliberation of Dr. Mashelkar Expert Committee continued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to undertake "A comprehensive Examination of Drug Regulatory Issues, including the problem of Spurious Drugs". The views of small scale bulk drugs units were not obtained.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise. The terms of reference of the Mashelkar Committee did not include issues

related to prices of medicines and support to small scale units. The committee did not undertake visits to any drugs manufacturing unit but the representatives of drug industry were members of the said Committee and their views were taken into account by the Committee.

Apex Court on Two Child Norms

219. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apex Court has recently upheld the legislation of Haryana Government debarring aspirants from local body elections who have more than two children;

(b) if so, while emulating the laudable step by the Haryana Government, whether the Centre will consider restricting the scope for public sector jobs to aspirants not adhering to two-child-family norm; 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.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

Bio-Equivalence Centres

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

(a) whether Bio-Equivalence centres in the country are being run without any approvals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the volunteers for these studies are being hired against the norms; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Bio-equivalence studies with drug formulations are required to be carried out as per norms prescribed under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules involving human volunteers. Bio-equivalence centres are required to get the approval from Institutional Ethics Committee and protocol etc. from the office of Drugs Controller (India).

Bio-equivalence centres are required to follow Good Clinical Practice norms for hiring or including human

volunteers in the study. The Centres are also required to follow the norms prescribed under the guidelines namely "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research for Human Subjects" issued by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). No specific complaint regarding Bio-equivalence centres has been received in this Ministry.

[Translation]

Constitution of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Himalayan Region

221. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial task force to view the whole Himalayan region in a unified form;

(b) if so, whether the task force had been constituted earlier;

(c) if so, the details given by the Force in its report;

(d) the names of States identified in Himalayan Region and the main resources, the Government proposes to provide for it; and

(e) the time by which the task force is likely to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) An Expert Group to formulate National Policy for Integrated Development in the Himalayas was constituted by the Planning Commission in March 1992. The composition and terms of references of the Expert Group are enclosed as Statement - I.

(b) An Eco-Task Force was constituted in 1981 under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the then Member, Planning Commission.

(c) The conclusion and recommendations of the Expert Group is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) Different Himalayan States facing problems as mentioned in the Expert Group Report are (i) Himachal Pradesh, (ii) Uttar Pradesh, (iii) North Eastern States, (iv) West Bengal, and (v) Jammu and Kashmir.

Uttar Pradesh has since been divided into Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. As a result of the recommendation of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Swaminathan, Gobind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development was established at Almora, Uttaranchal. Apart from this, the Govt. of India also established

Department of North Eastern Region (DONER) and North-Eastern Council (NEC). Resources are provided through these institutional mechanism for the development of the Himalayas regions. Most of these States are declared as Special category States which receive special Plan assistance as 90% grant 10% as loan as against non-special category States getting 30% grant and 70% loan. Besides they enjoy a number of concessions in many Central schemes.

(e) The Expert Group under Dr. S.Z. Qasim, the then Member, Planning Commission, submitted its Report in 1993.

Statement-I

*No. Q.12074/1E/01/92-E & F
Government of India
Planning Commission (E & F Unit)*

*Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001
27th March, 1992*

ORDER

Planning Commission have decided to constitute an Expert Group to formulate a National Policy on the Himalayas for Integrated Development. The composition. - I and terms of reference of the Expert Group are as follows :-

Composition :

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Dr. S.Z. Qasim
Member (Environment and
Science & Technology)
Planning Commission | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Jayant Patil
Member (Agriculture)
Planning Commission | Member |
| 3. | Prof. J.S. Bajaj, Member
(Health), Planning Commission | Member |
| 4. | Prof. K.S. Valdia
Professor and Head of the
Department Geology,
Kumaoin University, Nanital | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Harsh Gupta, Adviser
Deptt. of Science & Technology
New Delhi | Member |
| 6. | Dr. P.S. Ramakrishnan
Professor
Deptt. of Environmental Science
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi | Member |

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 7. | Dr. D.N. Tiwari
Director General I.C.F.R.E.,
Dehradun | Member |
| 8. | Dr. Virendra Kumar,
Zakir Hussain College
New Delhi | Member |
| 9. | Shri D.K. Biswas
Adviser
Ministry of Environment & Forests
New Delhi | Member |
| 10. | Dr. I.K. Barthakur
Principal Adviser
Planning Commission | Member |
| 11. | Dr. A.N. Purohit Director
GB Pant Institute for Himalayan
Environment and Development | Member |
| 12. | Dr. R.S. Mann
Professor
Deptt. of Anthropology
University of Delhi | Member |
| 13. | Special Secretary
Planning Commission
Government of India
New Delhi | Member |
| 14. | Shri K. Rajan,
Adviser (Agri, E & F)
Planning Commission | Member |
| 15. | Shri R C Jhamtani
Joint Adviser
(Environment & Forests)
Planning Commission | Member-
Secretary |

Terms of Reference :

- (1) To make recommendations towards development of a national policy on the Himalayas for an integrated mountain development with a view to ensuring that the entire region is used to the best advantage of our country.
- (2) To make an assessment of scientific, environmental and material resources of the Himalayan region.
- (3) To identify specific areas of activity which fit into the ecology of the Himalayan region and are consistent with the socio-economic character of the region.
- (4) To estimate the carrying capacity of environmentally sensitive areas within the Himalayan region.

- (5) To suggest suitable organisational mechanism to implement the proposed policy.

Non-official Members of this Group would be entitled to TA/DA as per Government norms.

The report of the Expert Group would be submitted within three months,

(N.K. Malhotra)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

All members

Statement -II

Conclusions and Recommendations

Recommendation - 1

Constitution of Himalayan Development Authority (HDA)

The Group would recommend the creation of an Apex Body at the national level. Such an apex body called the Himalayan Development Authority (HDA) should be headed by the Prime Minister with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, the Ministers of the concerned Central Ministries/Departments and the Chief Ministers of the Himalayan States, as a Policy Planning Authority. This could be assisted by a Steering Group headed by the Member in-charge of Environment in Planning Commission and associating Secretaries of the concerned Control Ministries/Departments and Chief Secretaries of the concerned States. If, however, because of the preoccupations of the Prime Minister, he is unable to chair the Authority, then it should be chaired by the Deputy Chairman. The Secretariat-of the Authority should be the Planning Commission.

Recommendation - 2

Creation of National Himalayan Environment and Development Fund (NHEDF)

The Group recommends, that a National Himalayan Environment and Development Fund (NHEDF) would be necessary to accelerate the implementation of the National Policy for Integrated Development in the Himalayas. The Fund should start with a reasonable allocation and once its effectiveness and role gets established, the allocation should be enhanced suitably.

Recommendation - 3

Enlarged role of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF)

The Ministry of Environment and Forests must strengthen its role in the Himalayan region. It should have a separate Division dealing with the problems of the Himalayas in an integrated fashion. This Division must have competent staff members dealing with administration, management and

scientific inputs leading to better quality of the life of the people of the Himalayan regions. The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development under the MOEF should be used as a nodal agency to identify the problems to be effectively tackled by the Ministry, Similarly the Botanical Survey of India and the Zoological Survey of India should continuously monitor the biodiversity and the fate of endangered species of plants and animals. The Group will recommend that, if there is a need, the MOEF should be provided with additional statutory responsibility and authority to deal with the implementation of the National Policy. There is also a need for considerable improvement in the management of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves spread in different parts of the Himalayan Region. These require, not only policing and vigilance but the enforcement of a proper scheme for the management of wild life. If the MOEF feels considerable difficulty in the management, a decentralised approach of making the States fully responsible for their protection may be considered.

Recommendation - 4

Linkages and Cooperation of Scientific Institutions

There are a host of institutions working in the country where work undertaken would be relevant to both development process and environmental conservation. The Government of India has established the G.B. Pant Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development (GBPHIED) as the Nodal Agency. It is, therefore, necessary that under the leadership role of the GBPHIED, an effective networking with the various other scientific institutions is systematically established.

It may not be easy to bring on one platform different scientific institutions working in different fields. There may be a vast diversity in the orientation of these institutions - educational, basic scientific research, applied sciences and technology generation etc. While some of the institutions are managed by the Central Government, some are run by the State Governments, others by autonomous bodies.

Nevertheless, in view of the critical importance of the Himalayan Region in several ways, it is necessary to create a mechanism where different scientific institutions can interact with each other. They may deal with any one aspect or several others of relevance to the development and preservation of the environment of the Himalayas. The Group recommends that the GBPHIED should organise get-togethers of the scientific institutions annually. The task before the scientific community is large enough to warrant pooling of resources be that manpower, infrastructure, etc. to undertake studies/research of immediate relevance. The possibility of creating a separate all India Association on the pattern of Agriculture Sciences and others called the Himalayan Region Scientific Association with its Headquarters in GBPHIED may be explored. It should meet annually at some selected place in the region.

Recommendation - 5*Interaction of Natural Sciences with Social Sciences*

Many social factors have influence both on development and the manner in which the society looks at the environmental issues as also effective communication to bring about awareness on the sustainability of the development paths being followed. It would be very useful if the Social Sciences are also dovetailed with the Natural Science and Technology inputs in bringing about environmental friendly development process of the Himalayan Region.

The Group feels that the country's socio-economic development should be seen as one comprehensive whole. Any integrated policy of the Himalayan region will be just a segment of the country's socio-economic development process. Islands of exclusiveness in the development of one region or the other may be socio-politically unsustainable. Any attempt at "we and they syndrome" would result in sub-optimality of the planning for development as also from the conservation angle.

The entire Himalayan region from the conservation angle must be broadly seen as comprising of three sub regions namely, lower hills, the middle hills and the higher reaches. These have significant variations in terms of flora and fauna and the kind of development measures required to be taken up. The Group, therefore recommends a proper interaction between Natural Scientists and Social Scientists in the Annual Session noted earlier.

Recommendation - 6*Preparation of Guidelines for Development Projects in States*

By and large the states action in attempting an environmentally friendly development process may be seen to lie in two broad fields. The first relates to regulation process with a view to preserve ecology and environment. The second broad at programmes which seek to reduce the adverse impact of development projects on environment as well as those measures aiming at qualitative upgradation. The Himalayan Region has been considered as an ecologically fragile area. In this light the Group recommends that the Ministry of Environment and Forests must frame detailed guidelines on various considerations which need to be kept in view while providing environmental clearances for development projects under the Environment Protection Act, be that by the central or state Governments. It is necessary to make these guidelines transparent and enforced in a fair manner free from arbitrariness.

Recommendation - 7*Preservation of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources*

The vast genetic diversity that exists in the Himalayan region, both of flora and fauna, needs to be preserved for

posterity, *In situ* conservation of the genetic diversity and resources in many situations may be inescapable. However, declaration of any area as biosphere reserve and closing down the area from human interference can have substantial impacts on those living within or in adjoining areas.

The Group recommends a time bound programme for inventonsation of genetic resources in the Himalayan region under the aegis of the Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India. In this, the traditional universities and other academic institutions or agencies, must also be associated to complete this process in a well defined time framework.

A fuller understanding of the flora and fauna and their propagation can assist in *ex situ* conservation of endangered species, wherever such measures are essential or desirable and feasible. A systematic attempt at the conservation of germs plasm and genetic resources must be attempted for which a detailed master plan must be evolved.

Recommendation - 8*Maintenance of Forest Cover*

Maintenance of the forest cover and their upgradation through forestry programmes are matters of urgent importance. Under the Forest Preservation Act diversion of forest to non-forest uses has been highly regulated. The Government of India has also laid down a policy of compulsory afforestation wherever diversion to non-forest purposes cannot be avoided. The Group recommends that it needs to be examined whether afforestation of degraded areas in the Himalayan region could be accelerated under this policy even by the deployment of resources to be provided by projects being taken up not essentially within the same states. Part of the funds to be provided by the project authorities for compulsory afforestation could be deployed in the Himalayan region, even if such projects are being established in the states outside the Himalayan region.

Recommendation - 9*Management of Forests*

In some of the states green felling has been prohibited. The Group suggests that green felling should be uniformly and totally prohibited in all the states of the Himalayan region. However, the requirements of the local people of fuel wood to be drawn from lopings, branches and fodder should be met and the existing rights of the local communities safeguarded. Commercial-scale exploitation of the forests should be comprehensively banned.

Forest management as traditionally practised in the area needs to be reviewed. The Group accepts the need for species diversity in the forest area. However, to create

employment opportunities and improving the economic well-being, the present policy of afforestation in degraded areas needs to be reviewed. In a multiple tree cropping, as part of the social forestry programme, inclusion of some types of horticultural crops especially the nut bearing trees may contribute both to bringing degraded areas under vegetative cover as well as creation of employment opportunities, increased income flow to the local communities.

The country can gain a great deal - from the experiences gained in forestry management in several other countries. A systematic attempt at collection of world experience and selection of management principles of relevance to Himalayan region needs to be undertaken.

Recommendation - 10

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Agricultural development in the-Himalayan region is characterised by extremely small land holdings and very low land: man ratio. Due to migration of the menfolk from the region seeking employment in the plains and outside of region, in several areas, agriculture is predominantly in the hands of women. The issue in agricultural development process is critical. Efforts that agriculture technology reaches the women folk and the financial credit to women need special focussing.

Given the topography of the area, the rainfall, particularly in the mid hills and higher reaches", agriculture development, defined in a comprehensive way, may have to be quite distinct. Raising of the seasonal crops without proper terracing, an expensive proposition in any event, makes agriculture operations prone to large scale top soil erosion and unregulated surface run-off leading to degradation of land. Agriculture development may essentially centre round raising perennial vegetation in the form of horticultural crops, fuel and fodder trees, pastures to support animal husbandry programmes etc.

Further agro-forestry and sericulture could also be promoted both from the point of view of increasing the income through high value generating enterprises as well as maintenance/upgradation of ecological balance.

A systematic attempt at the development of perennials should be fully backed up with research in terms of tree cropping systems, species to be grown and should be worked out. A master plan for the development of horticulture, sericulture and other tree based farming system, should be prepared in a time bound manner.

It would also be necessary for the concerned State Governments to be associated with the Union administrative Ministries dealing with the subjects to establish all backward

linkages in the form of nurseries to raise sufficient planting material to give operational context to the master plan.

Recommendation - 11

Packing and Marketing of Horticulture Products

Another critical need is to establish adequate and effective marketing arrangements, particularly when the agricultural commodities produced are perishable in nature such as apples, peaches, strawberries, plums, leachies etc.

The Group would recommend that even in the choice of horticulture programmes it may be worthwhile to pay attention to low volume high value crops which are not highly perishable such as the various types of nuts. Marketing of horticulture products to ensure remunerative returns to the growers will largely influence the success of the horticulture programmes.

Growers organisations should be actively encouraged by the States to collect fruits, vegetables to bring these to central points and thereafter market in different parts of the country.

Often the requirement of packing materials has had unhealthy influence on the maintenance of tree cover in the region due to the over-emphasis on using wooden crates. The National Committee on the use of plastics in Agriculture and under its programmes there are several agencies, which have designed polymer-based packing materials, which could be re-cycled. Specific programmes need to be launched for weaning away the producers, traders etc. from using the wooden crates and promoting the use of plastic materials to reduce the dependence on wood.

An attempt had been made to establish processing units to process fruits, particularly culls and, those not fit for table purposes. The Group understands that some of these processing units are languishing. A detailed analysis and review of the functioning of the processing units must be undertaken and corrective measures taken. Establishments for ensuring value addition, higher returns to producers which will also create employment opportunities in these regions are commended.

Recommendation - 12

Marketing of Horticultural Products to Neighbouring Countries

Another aspect of marketing of agricultural products in the Himalayan region is that the products were being earlier marketed traditionally to China or to, Bangladesh. The Group recognises that the Government of India had initiated measures through the Ministry of External Affairs to improve

border trade. This speed is critical for the marketing of agricultural products and needs to be substantially stepped up. This could greatly assist in the producers getting "marketing outlets for their products and probably getting a better price.

Recommendation - 13

Jhuming Cultivation

The slash and burn system of agriculture operations called incoming is widely prevalent in many of the States of North Eastern Region. Increase of population pressure has reduced the slash and burn cycle from 20-30 years; 05 years or even less. The impact of this on the forest cover, soil erosion has been extensive. Agriculture practices need to be substantially stepped up through minimal terracing arrangement and by the provision of appropriate implements and machinery, minimal irrigation facilities to enable farmers to improve productivity in properly cultivated settled plots. The existing jhuming cultivation has disastrous impact especially in steep slopes. Promotion of horticulture, agro-forestry, and sericulture may be intensively carried out under appropriate schemes for the rehabilitation of cultivators practising Jhuming.

Success of the programme will be contingent on meeting the requirements of "foodgrains and other essentials to the population in the region. The Group cannot over-emphasise on an effective public distribution system to reach the basic essentials to the population if a dent on the jhuming is to be made.

Recommendation - 14

Irrigation

Provision of irrigation in the hilly terrain is not simple. Presently a system of diversion of water for irrigation of crops in the slopes is being resorted to. Technologies for irrigation practices should be systematically studied and extended under appropriate programme to the farmers. Installation of improved irrigation devices such as sprinklers and drip irrigation in these regions, especially for the orchards, should be actively promoted.

Recommendation - 15

Energy

The Himalayan region is rich in resources for production of commercial energy, especially the hydel power. The basic conundrum has, however, been that except in one or two states, the extension of electrification in the region has been tardy. If the benefits of generation of hydel power do not reach the local inhabitants, this is bound to create difficulties in the exploitation of the available natural resources. The Group recommends that in all programmes for tapping of energy sources, meeting the requirements of the people living in the area should merit the highest priority even if the

cost of the extension of electricity grid is likely to be relatively more extensive than in the plains. The energy needs of those living in the Himalayas arise for cooking, lighting and warming. A larger network of electricity distribution would reduce the dependence on firewood and hence will protect the forestry resources.

The Himalayan region is rich with sites for generation of micro-hydel power based on perennial streams. Recently emphasis has been laid on tapping of the micro-hydel generation potential. To the extent that the local commune is involved in the operation and maintenance of the micro-hydel generation unit - through proper build up of skills and distribution is completely entrusted to local people, this could facilitate realisation of the potential.

In the region, sparsely populated villages in remote areas are a common feature. Non-conventional sources of energy, such as photo-voltaic cells, use of organic materials for gassification (biogas) and wind turbines can enable meeting the needs of lighting and pumping devices in such villages. The Group recommends that a systematic study of the demand and measures for the supply of energy needs should be attempted and concrete programmes drawn up to be implemented in a time bound manner. For this, a proper mix up to be implemented in a time bound manner. For this, a proper mix of the supply through both conventional and non-conventional sources of energy should be attempted.

Recommendation - 16

Non-Farm Economic Activities

Given the fragility of the Himalayan ecosystem, a large scale industrialisation following the pattern in the plains would be totally unsound environmentally. Some attempts have been made to develop service engineering, especially in terms of extension of the use of electronics in the Hill regions. The choice of industry including the services, which could be extended in the region would need to be carefully worked out.

Apart from the agro-based industries, which are highly recommended, it is necessary to explore other industries based upon usufructs of forests, which could be established in the region. This can augment the economic activities, and should generate higher incomes and provide employment opportunities. Mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping have proved to be most remunerative activities leading to prosperity and must be encouraged to develop their full potential.

Recommendation - 17

Health, Nutrition and Family Welfare

The Himalayan States have major health problems as prevalent in other parts of the country as also some which are more intensively seen in the Region such as Goitre, Malaria, Respiratory Disorders, STD, AIDS etc. Generally,

the contributory factors are under - nutrition, special geo-physical, geo-climatic, socio-economic and other variables present in the Region.

The Group, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare should provide more funds on priority basis for strengthening of National Malaria Eadication Programme, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme in these areas.

The Group also recommends that the access to health services should be significantly improved in the areas particularly in relation to establishment of the Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres so that adequate Infrastructural facilities are available for delivery of Health and Family Welfare Services. The backlog of establishment of Sub-Centres, particularly in the tribal and difficult areas should be removed as early as possible.

The Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and other health institutions should be fully operationalized by providing physical facilities including buildings and residential quarters, filling up of all vacant posts and ensuring supply of essential drugs, dressings and other consummables. Resources of Rural Development schemes like JRY, special area projects and adopiton of cheaper techno-logy for building construction should be used for removing the backlog in physical facilities. Because of the acute shortage of medical facilities in these areas the use of indgenous sytems of medicines should be promoted and integrated in general health services.

Pilot studies should be undertaken in a few districts in each Himalayan State to generate distirct level data base for assessing the prevalence and causes of morbidity and mortality in the Region. National level institutions viz. ICMR, NIHF, selected Medical Colleges (including colleges of Indian System of Medicine) may be entrusted the above responsibility.

Recommendation - 18

Preparedness for living in Earthquake - prone areas

Some regions of the Himalayas are very vulnerable to earthquakes as they form a part of the Alpine seismic belt. More than a dozen earthquakes, equal to or exceeding the magnitude 7.5 have occurred in these areas during the last 100 years including the Uttarkashi Earthquake of October 20, 1991. Since it is difficult to make accurate predictions of the earthquakes, the Group recommends the following measures;

- (1) Adoption of a building code for earthquake-prone zones. There are inexpensive methods adopted by Japan and other countries which should be strictly followed while designing the

buildings and houses in the seismic zone. The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee has developed some inexpensive designs.

- (2) Standards for earthquake resistant structures should be developed for the Indian conditions.
- (3) To reduce future danger in the event of earthquakes, the very pattern of living of the people must be modified and adopted in a suitable manner. Precautions like not keeping heavy objects above the head-level, not leaving heavy objects loose on the ground, keeping first-aid kit and emergency supplies of food ready at all times should be followed. There are many guidelines for preparedness. It is very desirable to discuss these amongst the family and community so that some organised efforts could be made at a time of any eventually. People are just not aware of them.

Recommendation - 19

Foads and Communication

Improving the access to the inhabitants of the region, on one hand, and the adverse effect of the construction of large network of roads do produce a dilemma. Adverse effects of the construction of roads, without safeguards, have posed serious problems of land slides. This not only affects the movement of men and material, leading to heavy siltation, but also destroys agriclultural lands and forests. Special studies ought to be conducted on the construction methodology of roads in the hills as would minimise the adverse effects and all safeguards, even if these increase the costs, should be taken so that the construction of roads is not environmentally damaging and will not lead to ecological disturbances, land degradation and soil erosion, disruption in drainage pattern, loss of forestry, vegetation and asthetic degradation. The Group recommends that the Central Road Research Institute of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) must be consulted for the design and construction of roads under specialised conditions such as the Himalayan Region.

It is also necessary that the road network should be so planned that no attempt is made to reach each and every habitation. Alternative construction of bridle paths, trollies, ropeways to move materials from hamlets and orchards to central collection points on the main roads, would need to be explored. All villages or groups of villages with a population of 500 or above should be connected with all-weather roads.

Recommendation - 20

Tourism

One of the major activities in the Himalayas is tourism both in the form of pilgrim tourism and for pleasure and advanture. While infrastructural facilities would need to be

created to enable tourism to develop fully in the Himalayan region and become a major economic activity, it is necessary that the impact of the creation of luxury hotels, eating places at the cost of local ecology must be studied in depth.

Home/cottage tourism, especially for the pilgrim and middle class tourists, would need to be promoted actively. Liberal credit should be available to the local inhabitants to construct paying guest accommodation. This will provide both income and employment to the local population, while simultaneously creating infrastructure for the middle-class tourist coming from outside.

Recommendation - 21

Development of Tribal Population

Most of the tribal population lives in isolated rural areas. They are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture and agro-related activities. Food security is an important component not only for their survival but also for their well-being. Other elements of their overall development is related to employment or their right to work. The Group, therefore, feels that highest priority should be given to agriculture and other food-generating activities. Literacy, primary education, health, shelter and protection of their children should also form components of developmental plan. Promotion of the role and status of women in the tribal society must receive major consideration to make human development holistic. The ultimate objective of our planning should be that all basic need should become within the reach of the tribal population of the Himalayan region. The concerned state governments must develop action plans to bring in prosperity to the tribals.

Recommendation - 22

Institutional Arrangements in States

In the states, which fall entirely in the Himalayan region, one could expect that in every aspect of its administration, the special features of the Himalayan region, particularly the fragile ecological system, would be kept uppermost in mind. In Uttar Pradesh, a separate Hill Development Department has been created to address itself to the principal issues peculiar to the region. In the case of West Bengal, a separate Darjeeling Gorkah Hill Council has been established. The District Councils in the North-Eastern region play an extremely important role in guiding the affairs of the local areas. Nevertheless, the Group feels that in many ways the administrative pattern seems to be more or less parallel and on the model, carried out elsewhere. The Group cannot over emphasise the fact that in every aspect of the administration of the affairs of the people living in the hills, special considerations which require to be bestowed on various aspects of socio-economic development must be integrally incorporated. Preservation of environment and maintenance of ecological balance must merit maximum attention.

Recommendation - 23

Involvement of NGOs, Voluntary Organisation etc.

In several regions of the Himalayan States, the local people have adopted technologies as have enabled them to meet their needs without serious adverse implications on environmental preservation and ensuring the local ecology does not get imparied. The Group suggests that in the process of generation of technologies for development, adequate attention needs to be paid for integrating indigenous technologies which have stood the test of time and this must be consciously looked at and promoted.

There is an increasing recognition that sound socio-economic development would only be possible through active peoples' involvement and participation in the formulation and implementation of plans, especially in terms of harmonising the environmental concerns and economic growth. The Group recommends that a fuller understanding of the felt-needs of the local people, their wisdom can be expected to contribute towards this. Several NGOs have been actively involved in the upliftment of the local communities and have been able to articulate the perceptions of the local community. The developmental programmes must associate NGOs, which could improve their efficacy. The Group also feels that the association of the International Centre for Integrated Development of Mountains (ICIMOD) would be extremely beneficial for further guidelines and advice in the removal of poverty.

Recommendation - 24

Source of Funding

Projects, schemes, new studies or investigations emerging from the recommendations noted above will require financial inputs. For this very reason the creation of a National Himalayan Environmental and Development Fund (NHEDF) has been suggested. This Fund, initially would not be large enough to cover all what might be needed, but depending upon the success in the implementation and the response that this report receives, the quantum of allocation could be enlarged suitably.

The Group has not suggested the establishment of any new institutions or research centres but has stressed upon the need for creating linkages and E-cooperation between the existing institutions, agencies, voluntary organisations and the States dealing with the Himalayan Region. It has identified one institute as a nodal point and has suggested the creation of a platform for holding annual meetings and the formation of an Association in which all the existing institutions (Brand agencies would be clubbed to work together to bring in prosperity and sustainable development in the Himalayas. All legitimate expenditure in implementing such a programme should be met by the NHEDF.

Identification of Backward Districts

222. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the very poor and backward districts in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any new schemes for the development of these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent on the schemes; and

(e) the time by which the schemes are likely to be implemented alongwith the targets fixed therefor?

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, a new programme launched by the Government in the 10th Plan, covers 115 backward districts and 32 districts affected by left wing extremism. The list of districts is enclosed statement.

(c) District Plans in respect of these districts are to be prepared by the district authorities in consultation with the representatives of PRIs, NGOs and other stakeholders keeping in view the felt needs of the people and the need to fill the critical gaps in the social and physical infrastructure.

(d) and (e) A sum of Rs. 45 crores is being allocated for each district covered under the Backward Districts Initiative over a period of three years.

Statement*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana : Backward Districts Initiative**I. List of backward districts*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the District
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad 2. Warangal 3. Chittoor 4. Mahbubnagar 5. Vizianagaram
2.	Bihar	1. Vaishali 2. Samastipur 3. Sheohar 4. Jamui 5. Nawadah

1	2	3
		6. Araria
		7. Darbhanga
		8. Purnea
		9. Madhubani
		10. Supaul
		11. Muzaffarpur
		12. Katihar
		13. Lakhisarai
3.	Chhattisgarh	1. Bastar 2. Dantewada 3. Kankar 4. Bilaspur
4.	Gujarat	1. Dangs 2. Dohad 3. Panchmahals
5.	Haryana	1. Sirsa
6.	Jharkhand	1. Lohardagga 2. Gumla 3. Simdega 4. Saraikela 5. Singhbhum West 6. Godda
7.	Karnataka	1. Gulbarga 2. Bidar 3. Chitradurga 4. Davangere
8.	Kerala	1. Palakkad 2. Wynad
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Mandla 2. Barwani 3. West Nimar 4. Seoni 5. Shahdol 6. Umaria 7. Balaghat 8. Satna 9. Sidhi
10.	Maharashtra	1. Gadchiroli 2. Bhandara

1	2	3
		3. Gondia
		4. Chandrapur
		5. Hingoli
		6. Nanded
		7. Dhule
		8. Nandurbar
		9. Ahmednagar
11.	Orissa	1. Keonjhar
		2. Sundargarh
12.	Punjab	1. Hoshiarpur
13.	Rajasthan	1. Banswara
		2. Dungarpur
		3. Jhalawar
14.	Tamil Nadu	1. Tiruvannamalai
		2. Dindigul
		3. Cuddalore
		4. Naggapattinam
		5. Sivgangai
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Sonbhadra
		2. Raebareli
		3. Unnao
		4. Sitapur
		5. Hardoi
		6. Banda
		7. Chitrakoot
		8. Fatehpur
		9. Barabanki
		10. Mirzapur
		11. Gorakhpur
		12. Kushinagar
		13. Lalitpur
		14. Jaunpur
		15. Hamirpur
		16. Jalaun
		17. Mahoba
		18. Kaushambi
		19. Azamgarh
		20. Pratapgarh
16.	West Bengal	1. Purulia

1	2	3
		2. 24 South Parganas
		3. Jalpaiguri
		4. Midnapur West
		5. South Dinajpur
		6. Bankura
		7. North Dinajpur
		8. Birbhum

Special Category States

17.	Assam	1. Kokrajhar
		2. North Lakhimpur
		3. Karbi Anglong
		4. Dhemaji
		5. North Cachar Hills
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Uppar Subsansiri
19.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Chamba
		2. Sirmaur
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Doda
		2. Kupwara
		3. Poonch
21.	Manipur	1. Tamenglong
22.	Meghalaya	1. West Garo Hills
23.	Mizoram	1. Lawngtlai
24.	Nagaland	1. Mon
25.	Sikkim	1. Sikkim
26.	Tripura	1. Dhalai
27.	Uttaranchal	1. Champavat
		2. Tehri Garhwal
		3. Chamoli

Total

115

II. List of Extremist Affected Districts

Sl.No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Karimnagar
		2. Khammam
		3. Medak
		4. Nalgonda
		5. Nizamabad
2.	Bihar	1. Aurangabad
		2. Gaya

1	2	3
		3. Jehanabad
		4. Rohtas
		5. Nalanda
		6. Patna
		7. Bhojpur
		8. Kaimur
3.	Jharkhand	1. Hazaribagh
		2. Palamu
		3. Chatra
		4. Garhwa
		5. Ranchi
		6. Latehar
		7. Giridih
		8. Koderma
		9. Bokaro
		10. Dhanbad
4.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Dindori
5.	Chhattisgarh	1. Kawardha
		2. Rajnandgaon
		3. Sarguja
		4. Jashpur
6.	Orissa	1. Ganjam
		2. Gajapati
		3. Mayurbhanj
7.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Chandauli
Total		32
Grand Total		147

[English]

Combating Diseases

223. SHIR ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is giving intensive focus on HIV/AIDS, while on the other hand other serious health issues like TB, Malaria Pneumonia, Diarrhoea, Cardiovascular are being ignored by the policy makers; and

(b) if so, the specific steps being taken by the Government to combat these diseases apart from the existing measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contagious and Non-Contagious Diseases

224. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU :

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

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to control the contagious and non-contagious diseases and the diseases of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Blindness, AIDS and Cancer;

(b) the amount being spent by the Government per year on the schemes to control the said diseases and the details of the success achieved in this regard; and

(c) the names of the States from where more cases of Tuberculosis and Leprosy are being reported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The information is being called and will be laid on the Table of the House.

A Killer virus on Rampage

225. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a killer virus is on the rampage in the country particularly in the area of Chandipura (A.P.) appearing in the "Times of India" dated September 18, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of children who lost their lives due to this virus upto now State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has appointed any investigating agency to look into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details of the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has reported that no such killer virus is on the rampage during the current year. However, Andhra Pradesh witnessed cases of acute encephalitis in children during the period between June, 2003 and September, 2003, in Maharashtra during the

period between June, 2003 and August 2003 and in Gujarat in 2004. 183 children lost their lives in A.P., 115 in Maharashtra and 15 in Gujarat.

(d) Directorate General of Health Services constituted multi disciplinary teams to investigate the cases in Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra in July, 2003 and in Vadodra, Gujarat in July, 2004.

(e) The clinical, epidemiological, entomological and serological investigations suggested that the outbreaks were due to acute viral encephalitis.

Guidelines on public health measures have been sent to district and state health authorities by the Central Government.

[Translation]

Density of Telephone Connections

226. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of people (per hundreded people) having telephone connections in the country ;

(b) the density of telephone connections in the country at present;

(c) whether the Government considers telephone revolutions as a mile stone in the development of the country; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to expand the telecommunication network in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The State-wise number of phones are given in enclosed as statement.

(b) Over all tele density as on 31.10.2004 is 8.2%.

(c) Yes, Sir. The increasing network of telecom services and their usage is contributing significantly to the over all socio-economic development of the country.

(d) (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to fund telecom services in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices. The scope of support from USOF scheme, apart from other services, covers VPTs in all revenue villages. As on 30.09.2004, 523390 villages out of 607491 villages have been connected through Village Public Telephones (VPTs).1

(ii) BSNL has planned at least one WLL Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in each Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) all over the country chiefly to cater to the demand in far-flung rural areas since this demand cannot be met feasible by laying underground cable due to techno-economic reasons.

Statement

State-wise Number of People (Per Hundred People) having Telephone Connection in the country as on 31.10.2004

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Total Telephone (Fixed + Mobile)	Over all Teledensity
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	46769	12.373
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6932744	8.891
3.	Assam	729539	2.597
4.	Bihar	1676036	1.906
5.	Chhattisgarh	366180	1.661
6.	Gujarat	6200173	11.552
7.	Haryana	2144557	9.605
8.	Himachal Pradesh	758459	12.041
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	464125	4.234
10.	Jharkhand	635333	2.242
11.	Karnataka	6122530	11.156
12.	Kerala	5655309	17.160
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2968492	4.613
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	7815405	9.182
15.	North East	439702	3.543
16.	Orissa	1318101	3.453
17.	Punjab	5497536	20.877
18.	Rajasthan	3290704	5.464
19.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	6023812	10.329

1	2	3	4
20.	Uttaranchal	500069	5.595
21.	Uttar Pradesh	6488080	3.664
22.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1788183	2.545
23.	Kolkata	3186283	22.803
24.	Chennai	3130444	46.260
25.	Delhi	7188027	47.396
26.	Mumbai	7252425	40.909
Total		88619017	8.195

[English]

Blacklisted Suppliers

227. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 454 dated July 25, 2001 regarding black-listed supplier and state:

(a) the details of the suppliers deregistered/black-listed but whose supplies were resumed subsequently in the same name or in other names;

(b) the details thereof together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Kendriya Bhandar recovered money from suppliers on account of their rates being higher than the open market; and

(d) If so, the details thereof together with the money recovered from each one of them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (d) The information will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Expert Panel

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

(a) whether an Expert Panel was formed under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR to probe the issue of Fulgrastim with regard to scuffle between Dr. Reddy Labs and Nicholas Piramal; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the findings of the Export Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Nicholas Piramal had contested that filgrastim (Grastim), DNA technology derived product of Dr. Reddy labs (DRL) is identical to that of imported filgrastim (Neupogen) of M/s. F. Hoffma La Roche, and had also protested against the use INN name Filgrastim by Dr. Reddy's Labs. Considering the complex nature of these proteins molecules obtained through DNA based technology, it was decided to refer the complaints to the Expert committee headed by DG, ICMR.

The expert committee in its report dated 22.8.2003 concluded that :

- As Grastim and Neupogen are identical according to all test carried out, DRL is entitled to use the INN Filgrastim for their recombinant human methionine GCSF,
- In view of the WHO-INN committee's recommendations that in the choice of the brand name, stem of the INN should be used, DRL should not be use the brand name Grastim for their product.

[Translation]

Sleeping Sickness

229. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

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

(a) whether the first patient of 'sleeping sickness' has been identified in India;

(b) If so, whether treatment of this disease is possible in India;

(c) whether this disease can pose the danger of turning into an epidemic;

(d) whether medicines for the cure of this disease is available in India; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to NIMHANS in the mainland of

India, the transmitting agent Tsetse fly is not present. Hence is no danger of this disease turning into an epidemic proportion.

(d) and (e) Drugs for treatment of the disease is available in India however, some of the drugs are required to be imported.

[English]

Self Help Groups on Health Care

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

(a) the names of Self Help Groups working on promoting health care in the country;

(b) whether any of this Self Help Groups is working in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details of the achievements of these SHGs in KBK districts of the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there are rules and procedures. You should know that your matters will be taken up only after Papers are laid on the Table of the House. So, it is no good raising your hands.

Item no. 4, Shri Suresh Pachauri.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North - East) : Sir, Item no. 4 is listed against Shri Suresh Pachauri's name. He is going to lay the Papers relating to the Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 422 in the Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003. He is laying these Papers today, after three Sessions, without giving any reason for the delay. The practice of the Government is that, if there are delays, the Minister should come out with the reasons when laying the Papers. Why is he laying the Papers after a delay of one year?

MR. SPEAKER : I think the question is justified. Mr. Minister, give the reason as to why 2003 year Papers are being laid now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI) : Sir, as far as the reasons for delay in relation to the laying of Papers of Notifications under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 are concerned, I would like to motion over here that various meetings were conducted in this connection. As you know, Sir, only last time I got to know the position in this regard. Therefore, I am seeking your kind permission to lay the Papers on the Table of the House.

MD. SALIM : Sir, let the Minister come out with the reasons. This is not the reasons. Next time he should come out with the reason.

MR. SPEAKER : It had not come to his notice earlier.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI : As far as the reasons for delay are concerned, with your kind permission, I would submit the reasons for the same on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request all the hon. Ministers to take note of this fact that if there are delays, they should come out with some explanation.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-
 - (i) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 422 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
 - (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 423 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
 - (iii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventh Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 424 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.

- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Seventh Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 425 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (v) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 426 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (viii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 429 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (ix) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Eighth Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (x) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Eighth Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 431 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (xi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 432 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.
- (xii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 433 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 726/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQU):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution:-

- (1) The Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Ordinance, 2004 (No. 1 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 21st September, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 727/04]

- (2) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 2004 (No. 2 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 21st September, 2004 together with a corrigendum thereto (in English version only) published in Notification No. 32 in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 728/04]

- (3) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance, 2004 (No. 3 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 24th September, 2004

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 729/04]

- (4) The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 (No. 4 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 12th October, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 730/04]

- (5) The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 (No. 5 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 11th November, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 731/04]

- (6) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Ordinance, 2004 (No. 6 of 2004), promulgated by the President on the 11th November, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 732/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : I beg to lay on the Table the Indoor Use of low power Equipment in the frequency band 2.4 GHz

to 2.4835 GHz (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 542 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th August 2004, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 733/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highway Act, 1956:-

(i) S.O. 1096 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2003, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1A (Jalandhar-Pathankot Section) in the State of Punjab.

(ii) S.O. 760 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 2004, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai to Kaniyakumari Section) in Kaniyakumari district in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(iii) S.O. 802 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2004, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam - Villupuram - Trichy) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(iv) S.O. 803 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2004, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Trichy-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(v) S.O. 810 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2004, authorising the Special Land Acquisition

Officer, National Highways, Bangalore, Karnataka as competent authority to acquire land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad Bangalore Section).

(vi) S.O. 883 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2004, regarding acquisition of land for building (Re-alignment of four lanes) of National Highway No. 79 (Gulabpura to Station Nagar) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(vii) S.O. 886 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 2004, making further amendment in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (1) above.

[Place in Library See No. L.T. 734/04]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 887 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th August 2004, regarding entrustment of stretch of National Highway No. 9 to National Highway Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-735/04]

(4) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 513 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with the Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-736/04]

12.03 hrs.

RE : RISING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES IN THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we generally take up Calling Attention Motion after the Question Hour. But there has been a request today by the main Opposition Party to raise some important matters after Question Hour. So, without

creating a precedent, I am allowing Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to make his presentation.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the steep rise in prices thousands of people from all over the country are demonstrating in Delhi today. The steep hike in prices during the last several months has severely hit the poor and middle class. There has been a continuous increase in the prices of all the commodities. When the budget was presented, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Manmohan Singh had given an assurance that price rise would be kept under control and that prices would not rise more than 5%. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price rise has increased to 7.5% and 8%, and in the month of September it crossed 8%. It seems that the price rise will touch double figure and it will rise more than 10%. Congress Party had said in their Campaign during election time that the Congress is with the common man but actually the Congress Party has betrayed the common man. They have been betrayed so badly that this has broken their back.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been an increase of 40 rupees in the price of cooking gas. The prices of diesel and petrol were also increased. Prices of vegetables and pulses have been increased and the prices of essential commodities are reaching the skies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, cement prices have increased. Iron prices too have been increased and now the situation is that even the freight rates have also been increased and this will increase prices of commodities transported by trains.

Sir, during the last six years the wholesale price index showed an increase below 4%, it remained between 3 to 4%, and the average remained at 3.2 percent, average consumer price index remained at 2 percent but at present the price index shows 8% increase and the average consumer price index is crossing 4.5%. Both the data are increasing which indicates rise in inflation but these statistics do not reflect the exact picture of rising inflation for common man because price index includes only a fraction of price rise. It includes only 1.5, 2 or 2.5 percent of it, whereas it affects the common man upto 50%. On an average, there has been an increase of 30 to 40 percent in the expenses of common man. He is confused as to where to curtail his expenses. Whether he should curtail on water, on tea, on house expenses or he should remain hungry?

Sir, from today onwards the water charges have been increased by 6 to 20 times. There has been an increased upto 600% in just a single day. No Government in history has ever made a 600% increase in any commodity ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is a State Government matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut) : Mr. Speaker, Sir ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not to be recorded. Nothing will be recorded except Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's version. I am requesting him to conclude. Please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water charges have been increased by to 20 times in a single day.

When we were in power water charges were at the rate of 30 paise per kiloliter which has been increased to Rs. 2 per kiloliter. The rich man drinks Bisleri water, but the poor take water of tubewell and the charges of this water have been increased 20 times.

Sir, Sonia ji is sitting here, she had gone to all the places and campaigned that prices will not rise ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, sit down, please. When I am standing, you have to sit down.

The hon. Leaders of all the parties have assured me cooperation. That means, we have to run the House according to the rules. Rules cannot be changed from minute to minute according to your convenience. If you do not get opportunities according to the procedure laid down, you can raise the issue. I am requesting the hon. Member to conclude as soon as possible.

There are some notices. I will allow them briefly. But this is a very important issue. I will allow a Short Duration Discussion. Therefore, this will be allowed. A full discussion can be held on that. I am only requesting those hon. Members who have given notices to make very brief references so that we can have a full-fledged discussion. Please have the patience to hear others' views. It is applicable to all the sides. Others' views must also be heard.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, you

have instructed him not to raise the issue pertaining to the Delhi Government. Why is he doing it? That is why, we have to interrupt him. He can talk on a Central issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to sit down. I will not permit this. Shri Athawale, I have now kept ready with me the procedure how to name Members and get them out of this House!

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, you have made your point. Please sit down.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, their Common Minimum Programme actually means that the common man should be given the minimum and the rich are given the maximum benefits. Index has crossed the figure of six thousand and the common man is severely hit by price rise.

Sir, if you see you will find that their allies like Communists and Samajwadi Party are also opposing them on the issue of the increase in the prices of cooking gas and water charges. The Congress Party is in minority. UPA is in minority. If you want, you can go for division under Rule 184, two third hon'ble Members will vote against their policies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I would only submit that there has been sharp rise in the inflation, people have been betrayed. The country is being brought on the verge of ruin. Farmers are committing suicide, the Prime Minister should come here and give his statement on all these issues ...*(Interruptions)* Today a demonstration is being held representing crores of people and Advaniji and Atalji have court arrested themselves, all this represents the feelings of the entire country. Lest this situation may not lead to revolution in the country and the poor are compelled to raise this issue...*(Interruptions)* We criticise them for this and I protest against this betrayal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody will be allowed to have his say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, prices of all essential commodities are increasing constantly affecting life of common people...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there is a situation of terror in the entire country. I want to say that inflation has risen to more than 6% in the last six months. These are Government figures, which are reported by newspapers but if we look in practical terms we find that the inflation has risen very sharply. Prices of Petrol, Gas, Diesel have increased. The exceptional rise in petroleum products has contributed mostly to the rising inflation. Today the Finance Minister has said that he will not roll back the hiked prices at any cost ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already informed hon. Member that I would allow a full fledged discussion on this subject. So please be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I would like to say that the price rise of more than 6% in the last six months is an outcome of the Government policies. Today country's common man may be suffering and passing through a difficult phase, that is why I want to request you that such issues of public interest should be discussed in the House so as to contain the uncontrolled price escalation and to bring forward a categorical statement from the Government in this regard. Thus, the House may contribute resolving the common man's problems ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are very serious issues. The high inflation in the country is causing great problems for the common man. Today wherever you go you will find that the prices of essential commodities have risen so much. The wholesale price index and consumer price index have risen more than double in the last six months, which was not so in the last four years...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sensex cannot be the index for the price index of the common man.

[Translation]

It has risen sharply in the month of May. It was told by

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

the Government that there is an element of manipulation in this ...*(Interruptions)* this sharp rise can be attributed to manipulation or how else can it be possible ...*(Interruptions)* It is completely a speculation that this won't affect the prices. How can this price hike be brought down as the prices of petroleum products have gone up, the Government can reduce the custom and excise duty, and this will be good for the common people. Is the Government thinking of doing something like this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to associate. I have given you the opportunity. Do not misuse it. This is not a full discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow more than one minute to anybody on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Such a recommendation has also been made in the Financial Standing Committee. Khanduriji is sitting there. He has also recommended to the Government the measures to stabilise the prices. The Government will certainly consider this but so far it has not been done yet...*(Interruptions)* The Standing Committee of Parliament have also given their views on this issue. I demand that the Government should consider as to how the price can be kept stable, otherwise people will loose faith in the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something on this subject ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No notice has been given by you. They have given notice. If you had some patience I would have allowed you. Now I will not allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of inflation is actually very serious. As told by Shri Malhotraji that the people of Samajwadi Party and CPM are also upset on this account and that we do not agree with the Government on this issue. I would like to say this very humbly to Shri Malhotraji. What have you done and what are they doing. Samajwadi Party will boldly highlight the issue of national interest. The way your Government functioned was wrong and that is why we opposed. Samajwadi Party

will always come forward if issues of public interest are ignored and if the common man do not get any relief. The most important point is that at the time of presenting the Common Minimum Programme, the United Progressive Alliance Government had primarily said that they will control the prices of essential items. This Government was in a position to foresee the difficulties and they knew it well that with the rise in prices of petroleum products in particular, the prices of commodities are bound to rise and when the diesel prices goes up, the transportation cost increase ultimately creating problems for the common man...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are only repeating the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : If the inflation will rise, the Central and the State Government Employees will demand dearness allowance, which is why we want the Government to give a clarification on this.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I have given notice on this.

MR. SPEAKER : It will come later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur) : Sir, the growing inflation has affected the people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is not on this, you know that.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Sir, I have given notice on the Press freedom...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : A statement should come on this regarding Government's view on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are very experienced Members of Parliament.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEKAER : Generally, I am right while I am here. While I am here, I am always right. The Speaker is always right.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, during the last fortnight, in Kerala, repeated police atrocities ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only refer to matters relating to Members of Parliament.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please have patience. If you do not get a chance, then you can say.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, the freedom of Press in Kerala is in danger. That is the problem.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, what happened to the issue of rise in prices? Is it finished?

[Translation]

MR. SPEKAER : That is over. Mr. Malhotra, I have called them for they have given the notice.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Congress party has not said anything, I am only saying that people of the country are suffering due to inflation and the Government is doing nothing about it. We walk stage out in protest of this.

12.17 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House.)

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Sir, the BJP has come down from divinity to this. I welcome this.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, please allow me to speak on this. I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is on petroleum prices.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the poor people, the downtrodden people are affected by the rise in prices of petroleum products...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given you permission to speak.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, if you do not allow me to speak, then I also walk out in protest.

12.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Chandrappan. Please do not refer to the State matters. Refer only to matters relating to Members of Parliament.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I am only referring to the problem of freedom of Press, which is ensured in the Constitution. The freedom of Press is under attack in Kerala. The Kerala police is constantly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow this.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. This is with regard to freedom of Press...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you to refer to matters relating to the Members of Parliament.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, this is a national matter relating to the freedom of the Press.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, the MP from Cannanore, who had gone to enquire into the matter how the Press people were beaten up in Cannanore, was attacked, and his vehicle was damaged. That is the aftermath of events that were taking place in Kerala during the last three weeks.

The Press people who were trying to report were attacked in Trivandrum and in Calicut. They are now attacked in Kunnur. Police is attacking them. Police is beating them down including women journalists. They are put behind the bar.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a matter relating to the pressmen. But, it is a State matter. I cannot allow State matters to be discussed here.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : It is a question of freedom of Press.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : It is not a State matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Law and order relating to Press is a State matter.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : I am not raising the law and order issue. I am raising the the issue that the freedom of Press, which is enshrined in our Constitution, is under attack in Kerala. That is the issue. When that is under attack, the Government of Kerala stands...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEKAER : Sorry, this is not Kerala Assembly. I would not allow it.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : There, democracy is under attack.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : I am requesting that there should be an inquiry why in Kerala freedom of Press is under attack. I have to raise it in Parliament.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : It is not a State matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall see that the information relating to the hon. Member is obtained and we shall intervene in the matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody's statement is being recorded. You know about my general directions.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : I am stating that if the Speaker is kind enough to make an inquiry, I will be happy.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : If you make that inquiry, I will be happy about it.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I have already said.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to help you to understand your problem. You can only associate please.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : In this matter I associate myself...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There should not be State matters. Shri Radhakrishnan, you know that very well.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I am putting it in a different manner not in the manner Shri Chandrappan has put it. My representation is entirely different from that. Now, the question is this. Why 'Right to Information' is a fundamental right?

MR. SPEAKER : Whom are you putting the question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am putting it before the House. Now, in this House also we have discussed a Bill relating to Right to Information. 'Right to Information' is a fundamental right. The Press people are collecting information. But, they are being prevented from doing that. That is the most important thing.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a matter under the Central subject. I will not allow it, Shri Radhakrishnan. I will look into it.

Shri M.P. Veerendra kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There must be a law to prevent such occurrence.

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I bring the matter to the concern of the House...(Interruptions) We have to take immediate steps to give adequate protection to the pressmen especially in Kerala. Otherwise, there is no end of the matter.

SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : I would request the hon. Speaker to make an inquiry why Shri Abdullakutty is not allowed to come to the House today. Yesterday, his house was attacked. He was prevented from going any where. Along with that, the attack on the Press is continuing unabated today. That Member of Parliament is prevented from coming to the House. I think, that must be inquired into. That is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that if the Member of Parliament is inconvenienced or if there is any problem, I shall find it out. I have already directed an inquiry.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Attack on the Press is not a State subject. Attack on the Press has to be an all - India subject. It cannot be a State subject in any case.

MR. SPEAKER : I will discuss with you in my Chamber.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : It is very sad to say that on the very first day of the Winter Session itself...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister may hold patience.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Your party has attacked an MP.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except Shri Karunakaran's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, it is very sad to say that one of our hon. Membrs is unable to attend the very first day of this Session.

MR. SPEAKER : I will just look into it.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, he was enquiring about the incident. The incident was in relation to the attack against the media persons. That is not the only thing. There were series of attacks, which started from November in Calicut, Karipur airport, Trivandrum, Cochin and twice in Cannanore ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat. Please do not interrupt your own Member.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : It is true that these media persons go with pen and pencil and not with any arms. They were attacked by a section of the people and it was registered by the Police...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, Press is the fourth estate in our democratic set up. We know that the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are significant. Even if we commit some mistakes, these media persons have to come, watch and prevent. It is an attack against the democratic set up itself. ...*(Interruptions)* I request the hon. Speaker to make an inquiry into this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, the hon. Home Minister should make a statement on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have made a very good suggestion. Please sit down.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, media is to report. When some matters were reported which were not suitable or palatable, they were simply attacked. Some people were allowed to go there, attack the media persons, take their camera and run away. They also attacked the van of the media persons. This is what is taking place in the southern most part of India now. One political party is behind that, and that party is the Indian Union Muslim League. I name the political party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is the Constitution of India.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : Sir, I am speaking as a Member of Parliament and not as a Minister now. I am saying that it is an unjustified accusation. It is wrong...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. It is over now.

*Not recorded.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : One hon. Member of Parliament could not come to this House today because he was seriously attacked by members of one political party, which I have already named...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already taken up the matter. No more discussion on this issue. I shall find out the facts about the hon. Member of the House.

Now, Shri Brajesh Pathak.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : Sir, the House is confused. The hon. Member has demanded a statement from the Home Minister. Why should he not make a statement?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, the hon. Home Minister is here. Again I am requesting him to make a statement on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister is not obliged to make a statement. I cannot compel him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, we request you to give a direction to the Home Minister to make a statement. Press is the fourth estate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the Home Minister should come out with a statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your suggestion has been noted by him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the national flag has to be hoisted in the airport. That place was taken up by one party and that party has hoisted their flag...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not to be recorded. You have not given any notice on this. I will not allow it.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Enough has been said. Shri Krishnadas, I am very sorry. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it cannot be tolerated. We should fight for the protection of the National Flag...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Is it a free for all that you can raise anything you like any time? I would not allow this. Sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Thomas, please co-operate. You are a Senior Member. You had been a Minister. You should know how to co-operate.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : This is my last point.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no last point. You are on the last point for the last five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Our National Flag is being humiliated. If they have humiliated our National Flag, why should they sit in Parliament?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we are requesting the Home Minister...*(Interruptions)* This is an attack on the media. This is an attack on the National Flag...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, the hon. Home Minister is sitting here. He should make a statement on this here.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. You have said that five times. You cannot go on repeating the same thing. It is for him to make a statement. I cannot compel him. You are a senior Member. You know that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We are requesting him.

MR. SPEAKER : Your request has been heard by him. The Leader of the House is here. The hon. Minister is here. I do not know of any rule by which I can compel them to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : A political party was involved which was reported. That is why, I said it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given notice on this. Please sit down. I would not allow this anymore. Please take your seat. Give a notice tomorrow, and I will see. I will consider your notice tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I have been elected as a Member of 14th Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Brajesh Pathakji, the issue that you want to raise has been rejected in the reply sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the office of our Ministry. We are considering the issue. Firstly I would see to it, then I would be able to tell you anything about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Sir, let me express my view point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into the matter immediately. You can raise the matter again tomorrow if you feel like doing so.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : All right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for your kind co-operation.

Now, Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, you can talk on Mirzapur district cement factory.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not forget it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Leave it, talk about the cement factory.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, tens of thousands of labourers are working in Cement Corporation, Dalachurk Chunar in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier also their Government was in power. They, in collusion with some capitalists sold the company and made it a disputed one and no attention is being paid towards it even today. Naxalism is raising its head owing to the lack of employment. 17 PAC jawans have been killed there, trucks have been overturned and the womenfolk there are taking resort to unacceptable and unethical practices of survive. The basic issue of development of rural India and that linked with the lives of the people needs to be discussed in the House.

It is also being said that naxalism is growing there due to lack of employment which in turn, has increased due to the closure of the cement factory. Therefore, I would like to submit that we may pay the labourers by selling the factory? It would enable them to marry their daughters and their wards could get education and they could construct their Houses. However there is abundance of raw material there and it is imperative to sure that factory in the public sector. If this factory is kept operational it would a right for the welfare of the country.

12.35 hrs.

**RE : RISING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL
COMMODITIES IN THE COUNTRY. – Contd.**

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : As a party supporting the Government, we feel deeply distressed. This is after all a coalition Government ..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the subject.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The Government should know the opinion of the parties which are supporting the Government before ordering for the increase in the prices of petroleum products. The Left parties were not consulted. We had opposed and we had given our suggestions.

When the prices of petroleum products were increased in the country, internationally, there was a decline in the prices. We have a strong suspicion - although it is sought to be linked to the international prices - that there is an attempt to make use of the increase in prices of petroleum products to mobilise additional revenue. This has been found to be a convenient tool for mobilising revenue for the country.

We seriously oppose the unilateral decision of the Government, not in consultation with us, because this is hurting the people. The increase in the price of diesel has led to the increase in the freight rates of Railways. The increase in the prices of petroleum products is contributing sharply to inflation in the country, hurting the common masses. From my party and from the Left parties, I demand that the prices may be reduced and brought to the previous levels. I want a total rollback.

The Government should find out greenfield areas to mobilise additional taxes to make good whatever revenue the Government might lose. There is enough money in the country. People are spending Rs. 250 crore for a marriage ceremony. That is not being taxed but the common people are being taxed by increasing the prices of petroleum products. So, I want a total rollback.

Secondly, the Government should ask the petroleum producing companies including the private ones to bear a part of the losses. We know the petroleum company in the private sector facing a quarrel, resulting in a decline in the SENSEX. I demand that the petroleum producing companies bear a part of the loss by reducing their profit margins in the name of helping common people...(*Interruptions*)

I do not join the BJP because I know, during the period of NDA, there had been persistent increases in prices of petroleum products...(*Interruptions*) I do not join you.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Malhotra, please take your seat.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I do not join the NDA

because during their period there had been successive increases in the prices...(*Interruptions*)

Let me be very clear. We shall oppose anything which hurts the common masses. We shall oppose each and every decision which might be taken unilaterally against the interests of the people. At the same time, we shall never allow the BJP to exploit the situation for their political advantage.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very sad thing. After the UPA Government came to power, this is the bonus they have given to the people of the country!...(*Interruptions*)

If we look at the last three or four years, no such steep hike in the prices of petroleum products had taken place. Within a span of six months, the price of petrol has gone up by Rs. 5.5, the price of diesel has gone up by Rs. 4.5, and the price of an LPG gas cylinder has gone up by Rs. 40. This has affected the people of the country...(*Interruptions*)

The prices of all the essential commodities are increasing manifold. The price of tamarind before this Government came to power was Rs. 20 per kilogram. Now, it is Rs. 70 per kilogram. It is shameful. This matter has to be discussed in detail. My party is demanding a total rollback to protect the common man in this country. This is the assurance given by the UPA at the time of elections. They incorporated it in their manifesto but look at what has happened now, after six months. So, my party is demonstrating everywhere. My party is demanding for a rollback of all these price increase.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : I draw the kind attention of hon. Minister of Finance through you, Sir, about the miserable plight of the Indian widows.

The conditions of the widows 'having no one to back them financially or otherwise are very wretched. Till date no law has been enacted to ensure social security and dignity of widows.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to formulate a policy and to allocate fund to introduce widow pension forthwith so that such widows can live like a human being and are not detached from the mainstream of our society.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three co-operative sugar mills in my constituency Bijnor in which lakhs of bags full of sugar are stored. New production has begun due to which there is a problem of upkeep and

storage before the sugar mills. The Government is not allowing the selling of the stored sugar. The biggest loss to the farmers is that the farmers failed to get the profit that was in the offering during previous months if the Government had given the permission to sell during that period. The sugarcane growing farmers should get the proper remunerative price of their produce.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, are you speaking on railway employees?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : No, Sir. I will speak on petrol, diesel and gas also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They have been mentioned. However, I am allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : It is matter of great concern to the whole House as well as to the nation that there has been freight hike by the Railways and there has been a sharp increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG, etc. As a result of hike, the prices of all essential commodities are increasing. The poor and common people are not able to buy their food items from the market.

So, I request the Government to please roll back the prices of LPG, diesel, petrol etc...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not give chance without a notice
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is getting hard for the people to build their houses. The provision of making mandatory use of fly ash upto 25 per cent is affecting its quality adversely as well as the cost of production of the brick manufacturing. Approximately 25 thousand brickkilns are lying closed at present in the country leading to large scale unemployment. The large scale exodus and migration from rural areas to cities is taking place. About 10 lakh persons engaged in the industry have been adversely affected due to it. Secondly provision for imposing penalty of Rs. 500 to 7000 per day and imprisonment of those violating the rule has also been made. The most important thing is that the use of fly ash is not safe from health point of view and it is leading to several diseases besides being the cause behind respiratory disorders. Hence I demand that the order making it mandatory to use fly ash be withdrawn so that the health hazard posed by it could be checked unemployment

be reduced and the production of good quality bricks could also be ensured.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name should also be associated with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you cooperate then I will allow your name to be recorded. You want to associate without notice. I will allow you as an exception.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given the notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Forget about Party. It is not a matter of Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That notice is not admitted.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been published in the newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave aside the newspapers, you talk about the parliament.

[English]

I am not permitting that subject. It does not relate to Parliament. Now, I will go to 'Calling Attention.' Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, you please come to me. I will explain to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down. Let me tackle this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please come to my chamber. I will talk to you. You come to my chamber.

...(Interruptions)

12.45 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and Several other hon. Members came and stood on the Floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER : I will talk to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotraji, nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Devendra Prasad Yadavji, I will request you to come and see me. I invite you. Please come to my chamber.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be allowed.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are also creating problem for me. I assured your leaders. I am trying to control. You are not allowing me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Devendra Prasad Yadavji, I am requesting you to come and see me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.45 p.m.

12.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-six minutes past Thirteen of the Clock

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

* Not recorded.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC INTEREST

Situation arising out of the Collapse of Global Trust Bank and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up item no. 8 - Calling Attention.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the collapse of the Global Trust Bank and steps taken by the government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir the Indian banking system comprises different bank groups, namely, public sector banks, private sector banks and foreign banks. The performance of all these groups of banks is monitored by the Reserve Bank of India through the mechanism of regular monitoring and annual financial inspections. The overall performance of 32 banks in the private sector over the years has been quite good except for certain banks, which failed due to non-compliance of statutory requirements and guidelines issued by RBI/Government of India.

GTB was a new bank in the private sector. It came into being in September 1994. Its performance was quite satisfactory till the slide was specifically noticed after 31st March, 2001. Since then the financial health of GTB was causing concern to the Reserve Bank of India. The bank's performance for the year ending 31st March 2002 and 31st March 2003 was reviewed by the RBI through the annual financial inspections. The key indications about the health of the bank were wrongly certified by the statutory auditors of the bank for both the years. The RBI inspection revealed wide variance with the balance-sheet figures published by the bank. In view of the erosion of capital of the bank, RBI directed the bank to infuse fresh capital so as to achieve a CRAR of nine per cent. However, GTB failed to locate a domestic investor who could infuse the requisite capital. Thereafter, the bank submitted a proposal to RBI from Newbridge Capital Limited, a limited partnership based in Cayman Island for investment in GTB. The proposal was not acceptable to RBI on account of certain requests by the investor for regulatory concessions and prudential forbearance, as also foreign jurisdiction for dispute resolution.

In view of the Bank's inability to raise the required capital from domestic investors or propose a voluntary merger with any domestic bank, on the recommendation of the Reserve

[Shri P Chidambaram]

Bank of India (RBI), Government placed Global Trust Bank (GTB) under an Order of Moratorium for the period from the close of business on 24th July 2004 up to and inclusive of 23rd October, 2004. This was done to protect the interest of depositors of GTB who numbered around nine lakh, and the banking system. It will be observed that there was no sudden 'Collapse' of the Bank. The deterioration in its financial health came to RBI's notice when the Bank's performance was reviewed by it in July-October, 2002. Even earlier, there were some disturbing developments. RBI initiated corrective action and provided an opportunity to GTB Management to infuse capital. When these efforts failed, on the recommendation of RBI the Government placed GTB under an Order of Moratorium to prevent its collapse.

It was essential to place the Bank under a moratorium to prevent a run on GTB and any malfeasance by Directors/Management. This action could not have been delayed. Thereafter, options for its rehabilitation were considered to protect depositors' interests and prevent any systemic risks. Apart from Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), some other investors also expressed their interest in GTB informally to the RBI. After evaluating all these options, RBI came to the conclusion that GTB's merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce would be the most appropriate solution under the circumstances. Hence, immediately after notifying the scheme to SEBI, an announcement in this regard was made on the forenoon the 26th July 2004. The draft scheme was also notified for inviting objections.

After considering the objections to the draft scheme of amalgamation of GTB with the Orientation Bank of Commerce, RBI forwarded to the Ministry of Finance a copy of the scheme for sanction of the Central Government in terms of Sub-section (7) of Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The Ministry of Finance notified the scheme w.e.f. 14th August 2004, amalgamating GTB with OBC. The scheme fully protects the interests of the depositors' and the Bank. So far as shareholders are concerned, their interests are addressed in the scheme to the extent of availability of funds after all dues and liabilities have been met as per the provisions of the scheme. The Scheme, thus notified, has protected the depositors' interest and prevented any systemic crisis, which could have followed in the wake of GTB's failure.

The Statutory Auditors appointed by GTB for the years ending 31st March 2002 and 31st March 2003 failed to identify the Non-Performing Assets of the Bank so as to reflect its true picture. This resulted in false certification by them. The position thus reported by GTB, did not match the information revealed through RBI's inspection. The RBI has already written to the Institute of Chartered Accountants to take action against the Statutory Auditors under the relevant statutes. The Scheme also provides for action against any

Director, Officer, and employee of the Global Trust Bank for liability on account of any criminal offence or for a statutory contravention or default committed by him or them before the date of amalgamation.

In order to avoid the recurrence of such failures in future, the RBI has taken several steps, which, *inter alia*, include introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel norms; prudential norms on asset classification, income recognition and provisioning; introduction of valuation norms and capital for market risk for investments; enhancing transparency and disclosure requirements for published accounts; aligning exposure/capital market exposure norms; introduction of off-site monitoring system and strengthening of the supervisory framework; introduction of Risk-based Supervision for banks and introduction of a framework for prompt corrective action.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, the RBI has, ultimately, taken steps to merge the covetous bank with the Oriental Bank of Commerce. The GTB is violating the guidelines, and the norms specified by the RBI since its establishment.

Due to that reason, not only GTB, but also 12 other private banks have ultimately collapsed. After the collapse of the GTB, the small investors and the small shareholders are facing a lot of problems. In the RBI notification, it has been stated that for the protection of the interest of the small investors and the shareholders, the RBI had taken this decision. However, for quite a long time, I am sorry to say that the RBI was reluctant to take necessary steps against this Bank and against the unscrupulous management of this Bank.

One Ramesh Gelli, who was the former Chairman of this Bank, was the office bearer of Vysya Bank, when the Harshad Mehta scam took place. In that scam, Vysya Bank ultimately lost Rs. 1,000 crore. He served as the Chairman of this Bank.

After the amalgamation with the Oriental Bank of Commerce, the officers and employees of the Global Trust Bank are drawing the same salaries and other benefits, which they were drawing earlier in GTB, in the Oriental Bank of Commerce, whereas the salaries and other benefits of the officers and employees of the Oriental Bank of Commerce are much below than that of the GTB. This has created a peculiar situation in the institution where the officers and employees belonging to the same cadre are drawing different pay-scales.

Sir, I need not go into the details behind the collapse of this Bank. However, I would like to say that this scam was created by the management of the GTB; it is the result of the incapable and inefficient functioning of the management of

the GTB. I wish to put some queries to the hon. Finance Minister and the remaining points will be covered by my other hon. colleagues, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, Shri C.K. Chandrappan and Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I wish to put the following queries or points the hon. Finance Minister.

1. On 24th of July, moratorium was announced on GTB's operations. However, on 26th of July, the RBI announced a merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce. Despite 25th of July being a Sunday, which was a holiday, why was the RBI in so much hurry to take this decision or in whose interest was this decision taken?
2. Proper evaluation of assets and liabilities should have been done before any takeover or merger. In this case, however, the Oriental Bank of Commerce got no time to do the evaluation exercise.
3. Thirdly, the Oriental Bank of Commerce is a public sector bank with the private shareholders' representation in the Board of Directors. The Board meeting did not take place to consider the issue of merger of these two banks.
4. Fourthly, the Report of the JPC, in 2001, which looked into the Ketan Parekh scam case, clearly indicated that the GTB was involved in the scam. Then, why did the RBI not take any action against the GTB?

14.00 hrs.

I now come to my fifth point. GTB's balance sheet for the year ended on March 31, 2002 showed a net worth of Rs. 400 crore and a profit of Rs. 40 crore. However, the inspection report of RBI showed GTB's net worth to be negative. What action was taken by RBI against GTB for this falsification of records?

These are my five queries to the hon. Finance Minister. I hope the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank India will take necessary steps to ensure that such instances, which hit the interest of the small investors of the country, will never occur in the future.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I must confess that I have to congratulate Shri Chidambaram. He is laughing. Probably he believes it to be a left-handed compliment. No, Sir, I really compliment Shri Chidambaram, a leading lawyer of Supreme Court. I do not compliment Shri Chidambaram, the Finance Minister of India. It is very important. Defence of the guilty person is the essential requisite of becoming a leading lawyer. How can I expect Shri Chidambaram to forget his profession after he has taken over the responsibility of being the custodian of the finances of the country? I compliment Shri Chidambaram, the lawyer.

Why do I do that? I do that because he has prepared

his statement in a way to let off the guilty. The management of GTB consisted of criminals from day one. However, the guilty in this particular case has been the Reserve Bank of India, the regulatory agency, the authority which is vested with the responsibility of financing, controlling, and monitoring the financial system of the country.

Sir, I do not think Shri Chidambaram will be angry with me if I go a little into history. I must say that Shri Chidambaram appeared on the scene later. It was a crime committed during the period of the earlier Governments. Shri Chidambaram comes into the picture later on, I admit that.

This was a special private sector bank. It was set up during the days of euphoria generated by the process of liberalisation. As you know, there was a kind of euphoria let loose in the country in 1991-92. The present Prime Minister was the Finance Minister of India then. I do not link the two incidents, but this is any irony of fate. There is no reason to link the two, but this is an irony of fate. It was a tragedy that the former Finance Minister was present in the Inauguration function of the Global Trust Bank in 1994. You know who was the Finance Minister then. I am only saying this because the euphoria was so intense then that licence for setting up private banks was given to every Tom, Dick and Harry in the country. It was given by the Reserve Bank of India to whoever had applied for it.

Some things were said about Ramesh Gelli. He is a person on whom the Government of India conferred Padma Shri. How can I forget him? Just imagine, the person who is responsible for collapse of a bank is recipient of Padma Shri. Who is glorified here? Is it Padma Shri which is glorified? Is it person who is glorified? Is it the system which is glorified?

Shri Bhardwaj is sitting hear. He is the custodian of law, appropriateness, and scruples of the country. Will he kindly look into it and examine as to who were the people who took these decisions? From day one, Gelli was a criminal. This gentleman was once the Chairman of Vysya Bank.

You remember Harshad Mehta; you have not forgotten his name I think. The man is no more but his misdeeds remain in the history of India only to tell the people as to how the whole system could be manipulated.

He was the Chairman of the Vysya Bank and Vysya Bank was identified to be involved in the scam. My poor self was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. We looked into it and the Vysya Bank was identified as a conduit for diverting funds to launder the stock market. It is there in the Report. It is not that the RBI can claim that they do not know it. Ignorance is not a virtue, it is only a defence of the failure.

[Shri Gurudas Gupta]

Sir, the point is that Mr. Gelli, after the Report of the JPC, after he was indicted, and after the Bank was indicted, was given the permission. Another eminent lawyer is sitting there. A person with a criminal record is being inducted into the Judiciary. How do you like it? How do you like the Judiciary to become? Mr. Gelli became the Chairman with the gracious approval of the Reserve Bank of India. You know, that euphoria was so great that the former Finance Minister had to grace the occasion...*(Interruptions)* This is the background ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should seek the clarification...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I would implore upon you to give me a little time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are giving speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : After all, it is globalising the economy. Globalisation is the slogan, Liberalisation is the creed, and Mr. Chidambaram is the custodian of the new philosophy. How can I become so brief? Collapse of Global Trust Bank is only a repetition of history. It is a repetition of the sordid tale of deceit, fraud manipulation, collusion, falsification of audit report, on the one hand and on the other hand, the colossal failure of the Reserve Bank of India in performing its duties.

Under Section 21 of the Banking Act, RBI has the statutory responsibility of protecting the value of the deposits of the common people in a bank. It has not performed its duty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is he ready? My charge is a charge of collusion; my charge is a charge of falsification; my charge is a charge of fraud; and my charge is a charge of RBI not performing its duties. Mr. Chidambaram is known for his open-mindedness. I plead with him, please accept the suggestion of having a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the matter.

Sir, I give you three instances as to why I say that it is a case of collusion. First is the reports of the Inspectors. You do not believe the poor inspectors who are down below. Our Ministers are having faith only in the Governors and Deputy Governors. But the Inspectors at the down below had produced two reports saying that the audited reports were all false and the auditor, who had been engaged in exchange of hefty sum, had given a false report. It was pointed out in 2001-2002 but the top management, for reasons known to them, did not take any action.

Secondly, the JPC - I am not referring to the JPC of 1992-92, I am referring to the JPC which looked into Ketan Parikh which was headed by Shri Tripathi - says that there was enough evidence of malpractice, misappropriation and

diversion. They said it. What did they say? The report was submitted two years back. Therefore, these are all open documents. Despite that, why was the Bank management allowed to continue till 2004? Inspector's report spoke of falsification and fraud. If you have respect for Parliament - I believe, you have respect for Parliament - you must have respect for the creature of Parliament.

JPC is a creature of the Parliament. That is of all party Members. That JPC said : "Look into it." But no action was taken. On 31st March, 2002, the Annual Report of the GTB showed a net worth of Rs. 400 crore and a net profit of Rs. 40 crore. The Balance Sheet was certified by the Chartered Accountants whom they hired. But the RBI Report said that its net worth was negative. It was said that they earned a profit worth Rs. 40 crore. But, according to the report submitted by the Inspector, the worth was negative. What was the action taken, Shri Chidambaram? I do not hold you responsible because somebody else was at that time at the head. But please do not resort to cover it up. Why was this report not taken note of by the RBI Governor, Deputy Governor, Finance Minister and Finance Ministry as far back as 31st March, 2002? How do I say that it is verified? The very next year the Balance Sheet said this.

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : Please conclude. There are two more speakers.

...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : How these things have happened and how these things are now being covered up!

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I implore upon you that let the nation know who are the custodians of our financial system. Shri Chidambaram, I believe, is a bold man. He will take a bold decision. He will boldly agree to the suggestion that I am making. Let there be another JPC of his own choice. Let him choose the people. They must make an on-the-spot objective study. No action was taken in 2002. No action was taken in 2003. In between, during that period, there was a JPC, which said that this man was swindling the funds. Who has funded? The Bank of Karad has funded Harshad Mehta and other brokers. Shri Chidambaram must be knowing these three persons. Now, the Global Trust Bank has funded Ketan Parekh. Who is Ketan Parekh? He is a criminal now in jail.

MD. SALIM : The entire Kolkata Stock Exchange collapsed because of him.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The Bank of Karad is a private bank responsible for colluding with Harshad Mehta and other brokers. Within a span of five years, another private bank collides with Ketan Parekh, now in jail!

There is another important point. Why was no action

taken despite the three concrete reports? I charge, not Shri Chidambaram, but the then management of the RBI of covering up and not taking action, of refusing to perform this statutory duty, of being hand in glove with the manipulation and distortion of the system. RBI is responsible. Not only now but in our JPC Report of 1991-92, we had also indicated the Reserve Bank of India. But the Government did not take any action. Now again, in the second JPC, RBI has been indicted.

Now I place before you another testimonial, another evidence, which is absolutely accurate to say that Reserve Bank is responsible. Mr. Lawyer Chidambaram, please ask for a lenient action against the culprit but do not cover up the culprit. If you tell them that you cannot take that action against RBI, the whole Indian system will be in jeopardy. The whole of India will look at us. I agree if you take a lenient stand as a good lawyer, but do not try to defend by saying that the Reserve Bank of India did not do anything. That is not all.

There is one more collusion. Before the collapse, just see the collusion. Shri Ramesh Gelli who was the Chairman, RBI, reduced his holdings in Global Trust Bank. Shri Gelli was knowing that the Bank was on the verge of collapse because he had done all the misdeeds. Therefore, in order to protect himself, he was diluting his own stake from nine per cent to seven per cent.

He had diluted his own stake from nine per cent to seven per cent. There are Directors of RBI on the Board. What did they do? On the one hand, he was committing criminality and on the other hand he was diluting his shares so that he did not have to bear the brunt of the collapse.

Secondly, two months before its collapse, all the FIIs (Financial Institutional Investors), all the FDIs and all the NRIs had reduced their stake. How could they get the signal? Therefore, it was all a calculated, manipulated conspiracy to commit a fraud. Before the bank came to collapse, they protected themselves by withdrawing their funds, by withdrawing their capital. Mr. Gelli, his son, his sister, his family together reduced their holdings. NRIs reduced their holdings. As a result, what happened, you all know. It became a public sector bank., with 53 per cent as public holdings 47 per cent as holdings of others. Criminals had planned their action in a way that they could withdraw their money, and the poor investors who had their stake, who had purchased the shares were to be defrauded. The poor investors were totally defrauded.

Sir, the question is, what is to be done now? There was a person with doubtful credentials who was granted permission to float a bank. Euphoria was so great that the Finance Minister could not prevent himself from attending the meeting, the inaugural programme.

From day one, they had been destabilising, they had been diverting and they had been making use of the signboard of a private bank under the patronisation of the liberalised policy to eat the money. There were enough warnings, but no warning was heeded to by the RBI. And, a person there purposely did it. What is to be done?

Mr. Chidambaram would say that he has rescued the bank. Yes, Mr. Minister, you have rescued it. I compliment it. But at what price?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He is complimenting for that, very good!

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I agree that he has rescued the bank. But would you, Mr. Minister, let me know as to why such a hurry was there to amalgamate. There have been collapses of 12 private banks in India during 10 years period. Liberalisation means fraud. Twelve private banks had collapsed in the country, gentleman! Have you ever looked into the reasons for it? The latest one is the GTB.

My essential point is that the collapse of the GTB only says that the Reserve Bank of India has not done its job, SEBI has not done its job. I want a criminal case to be filed against Mr. Gelli. He has not said whether he has done it..

In July, the bank was taken over. Today is 1st December. If you were in such a hurry to amalgamate the bank, why till today you are not in a hurry to take action against Mr. Gelli? Are you again fond of him because he has been found to be a brilliant banker to be given the *Padma Shree!*

Let us know from you, Mr. Chidambaram. There were too many skeletons in the cupboard. Mr. Chidambaram, kindly have courage to expose the cupboard and tell the nation. There has been the Harshad Mehta scam, there has been the Ketan Parekh scam and there has been the GTB scam. You-not you but the RBI; not you but those who run the financial system - have been found to be totally incompetent to protect...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : My arrows are equally towards you gentlemen, sitting on my right side ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to tell Shri Chidambaram, do not carry the crime of the earlier Government. He may institute an inquiry, register a criminal case against Gelli, take action against all those officers who have been found to be guilty and find out the collusion. In order to find out the collusion, in order to set up a foolproof system, he should take action because the system did not work. It did not work in 1991-92. It did not

[Shri Gurudas Gupta]

work in Ketan Parikh's case. The system did not work in Global Trust Bank. Please let us know his remedy for setting up of an effective system to protect India's financial system from the hands of Gellis and these political patronages.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chandrappan, you may only seek some clarifications in a few minutes time because Shri Dasgupta has taken too much time.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : I will not take that much time.

Sir, the Finance Minister while replying to the debate on the Budget said that, be soft-spoken so that the others will listen and you will also be a soft person. I think this is a very soft statement he had made.

The fifth point in the statement says that the RBI directed that, if necessary, criminal cases can be launched against the Directors and other people responsible. Is it not a very soft approach to those people? I will not describe all that has been described by my predecessor. Not only the RBI, SEBI also did the same. There was an order from SEBI in 2002 that the brokers dealing with the share of GTB were prevented. But all of a sudden SEBI withdrew that just on the eve of the collapse of the bank. The result of this has been told by Shri Dasgupta. While with drawing this ban what really happened was, all those, who wanted to escape from the sinking boat, escaped. They were the big sharks, the promoters including Gelli, Padma Shri, his relatives and everybody. They diluted their share and SEBI gave them the loophole. It showed them the path, the way they could escape. Then came Shri Chidambaram's great friends, the foreign investors, NRIs, FDIs, FII's and others. They also escaped through that route. The wayout was shown to them by the SEBI. It showed them the way to save themselves. But the poor investors were the ordinary people, people like me and probably like you, Sir. You are also an ordinary person. Their investment, which was 43 per cent, in the meantime had risen to 53 per cent. The poor fellows, not knowing what was happening, invested more. Shri Chidambaram says in his reply to those investors that if something is left after everybody has looted the bank, a share of that will be given to them or they will not be compensated. But in a great hurry when RBI and SEBI were acting, they did not take care of the interest of the country, the interest of the people. This is my complaint. I do not want to go into all the details. Shri Chidambaram, who always thinks that the private sector is going to play a very glorious role in the country, should know that 17 private sector banks during this period have collapsed in the country. I do not want to repeat those names. It is the result of ten years of new economic policy unleashed by Mr. Chidambaram and his friends. The Global Trust Bank is the 18th in the list.

There is another interesting thing. Once all these banks defrauded people and the banks collapsed, now the Government is asking the healthy public sector banks to take this burden on their shoulders. I do not understand the logic behind this. These public sector banks are now to take care of all the sins that are committed by private sector tycoons and banks which are of Harshad Mehta variety. Is it not a very irresponsible thing to do?

In the meantime, I must say that when you are adopting the policy of entrusting all those banks which are collapsing to public sector banks, I understand, in Hyderabad a number of cooperative banks are collapsing. They are also licensed by RBI and I think they are 17 in number. Probably, it is not directly connected with this but it is better that you make an investigation about it. Nobody is taking care of this. Maybe, because poor people and cooperative banks are involved and no big sharks are there.

Under these circumstances, very serious crimes are committed by the Global Trust Bank and the owners of it. It is now being put on the shoulders of the public sector banks. Now I would like to know whether the Government would take criminal action against those who leaked this information to big sharks to escape from the sinking boat. He said that there are provisions in the RBI directive but whether those provisions are being invoked or not. Has anybody who is responsible for the collapse of these banks been charged? If Mr. Chidambaram is kind enough, why not he also agree for another Joint Parliamentary investigation on this so that a better policy framework can be framed to see how this situation could be met with? It is because, I am sure, this is not the last private sector bank to collapse. It is process which will continue. Then how is the Government going to face it? I would like to know whether the public sector banks should always bear the burden of it and also those who were responsible for the collapse and those who willingly planned this collapse and whether they should be allowed to go scot-free. I would also like to know whether only a directive is enough or more stringent action is necessary. What about criminal cases against those who are responsible? What about parliamentary probe? These are some of the questions which I would like the Minister to answer.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, these cases of virtual collapse of private sector banks are the result of nearly one and a half decade of liberalisation and privatisation globally. Whenever the private sector banks are in trouble, the public sector banks asked to bail them out. In the instant case also, when Global Trust Bank collapsed, a moratorium was imposed and then subsequently, this bank was merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce which is a public sector bank.

The hon. Minister in his statement has stated that it has not happened suddenly or abruptly. The financial health

of the Global Trust Bank was concerning the Reserve Bank of India and the performance of the bank during the period ending 31st March, 2001 to 31st March, 2002 was reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India through its annual financial inspection. So, the problem started since 2001 and it almost became clear that the bank would collapse one day. Why did the Reserve Bank of India not take action at the appropriate time?

The Global Trust Bank, since 2001, had sent out signals that things were not moving in the right direction. Alarm bells were sounded on a number of occasions, there were wake up calls for the regulators to step in and take appropriate steps to prevent it from virtual collapse. But that was not done. No firm action was taken to put the affairs of the bank back on the rails. Although there were warnings given, although there were adverse reports coming, although the Reserve Bank of India knew that things in the Global Trust Bank was not moving in the right direction, yet why was no action taken at the appropriate time to prevent the bank from its virtual collapse? Even right from 1997-98; the Advance Portfolio became a source of worry. Increasing exposure to capital market through advances meant digging its own grave.

FERA had enquired into the affairs of the bank and it was found that funding was made to a corporate for a non-existent refinery. So, fraud had continually been committed by this bank through all these years and in spite of that no action was taken. The Ministry of Finance had then decided to merge the bank with the Oriental Commercial Bank. The Non-Performing Asset of the bank in the year 2002 was more than Rs. 1200 crore. In spite of this, no action was taken.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a JPC would be constituted by him to enquire into the entire affairs of the Global Trust Bank or not. The earlier JPC in their report on the stock market scam had pointed out that something was wrong with that bank. A Parliamentary Standing Committee also commented on this and in spite of that no action was taken.

I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether a JPC would be constituted to inquire into the entire affairs of the Global Trust Bank. Secondly, the person who was responsible for the collapse of this Bank was Mr. Gelli. I want to know whether Government will take action against that person. I would also like to know, in order to evolve a foolproof system, whether the Government would make a proposal so that such a type of fraud would not be committed in financial institutions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the Ministry may reply.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, I would like to speak for few minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the matter had been pending since the last session and it could not be concluded then and his name was not in the list then, I, therefore, thought that he be gives a chance today.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may put only question or seek clarifications.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I will sit down before you ring the bell. I want to be very brief and I would only want to put specific queries to the Minister based on what he has said in his statement.

Would the Minister confirm or deny that no public sector bank was willing to take over GTB and it was almost thrust on it?

Secondly, you have said that based on the recommendations of the RBI, OBC was asked to take over the Bank. It is stated that RBI did not recommend it. In fact, in the initial stages, the RBI had said that no public sector bank is willing to take it and it should not be taken over. If this was subsequently done and referred to them, it was only after the Government made up its mind and then picked up a bank and told the RBI to just put their thumb mark on it. You may please confirm it.

Thirdly, even hon. Member has said and I am also repeating that the whole merger was done in a hurry and in a non-transparent manner. Simultaneously, the next day, people had talked about larger quantum of selling of shares from the time you decided till the time you actually issued instructions. The previous speakers have given the names of big FIs and all that. But a large number of ordinary shareholders have suffered because people in the management have sold very large quantum of shares and the percentage of it is something unusual. The management would have benefited and the people would have suffered because of some leakage somewhere, and insider trading has taken place. Could you please tell us the quantum of shares which the management people have sold during this time and at what value was it done? Now the value has become zero and the ordinary people have suffered a great deal. Therefore, insider trading should be clarified by you.

My last point is, GTB has been favoured without any reason. It has been favoured unfairly. I am told, and you may please correct me, that employees of the GTB who are getting the private sector emoluments would continue to get the same emoluments which are much higher than the OBC employees who are working in the same grade. Thus you got a loss-

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

making bank, merged with a bank which is supposed to be making profit and put their officers and employees at a lower pay scale. There is a lot of discontentment on it. Are you aware of it? If so, what are you going to do about it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : As a special case, I have allowed Maj. Gen. Khanduri to seek clarifications. It will not be repeated in future.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for their views expressed during this very brief debate on the Calling Attention Motion as well as for the pointed questions raised by them which gives me an opportunity to add to the statement that I have made in response to the notice.

The first thing that I wish to make clear is, action was taken in the GTB case after this Government came into office. Now, I am not looking for applause on this ground.

All I am pointing out is that within days after this Government took over Office, when I received information about the state of affairs of the GTB, I consulted with the RBI and requested the RBI to look into the matter expeditiously and make its recommendations. This wound, if I may say, has been festering for two to three years. If there had been forbearance or indulgence, that forbearance and indulgence relates to a period prior to the 24th of May and not after 24th of May, 2004. The RBI is the Central Bank of India. The RBI is also the regulator of the banking industry. In some countries the banking regulator is different from the Central Bank. We have combined these functions of the RBI. The RBI, therefore, can only act in manner that it does not induce any systemic consequences and systemic implications.

In this case, it is possible to argue that the RBI perhaps showed forbearance for a longer period than was absolutely necessary. It is equally possible to argue, as RBI has done, that in every action that the RBI took the implicit message was that the action that it takes should not cause a run on the bank or cause any systemic consequences. Now, I do not wish to be judgemental. Each one can draw his own conclusions. But the fact does remain that Mr. Ramesh Gelly, under a certain dispensation, was shown indulgence. Let me assure you that if anyone has done any criminal act, he will be punished.

Let me add now that since action was taken in the case of Global Trust Bank, I have not kept quiet. I have not been idle. I have closely monitored the situation. The scheme under which Oriental Bank of Commerce has taken over the GTB makes it absolutely clear that any Director or Manager or employee involved in any violation will be punished. There

is no amnesty. Investigation is complete. Criminal cases will be filed before the month is over.

Therefore, with great respect, I would submit that I see no reason for a JPC. If I fail to take action, if the Government is idle, then perhaps a demand for a JPC would merit attention. But I have not been idle; the Government has not been idle. The criminal cases, as I said, will be filed before the month is over.

My friend, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, asked me, "Why did you take a decision on a Sunday? Unfortunately, the Government does not rest on a Sunday. The moratorium was on Saturday, the 24th of July. Before depositors panicked before the families would suffer and panic, we worked round the clock and on the 26th of July which was a Monday, we announced the merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce.

Let me tell you that hundreds of depositors have told me and have written to me saying that they are happy that we took action in 48 hours. Every Branch of GTB was converted into an OBC Branch, and every rupee of every depositor is absolutely safe today in the hands of the OBC.

MD. SALIM : It is a Holy day, not only a holiday.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No running commentary, please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not correct to say that the OBC did not have the time to do an evaluation exercise. Before the final orders were passed, the OBC has done its due diligence. The OBC is completely satisfied that what it has bought is a valuable asset.

The OBC Board meeting took place on the 2nd July, 2004. All this is reflected in the Board meeting. It is not correct to say that the OBC Board did not meet or did not consider these matters.

Sir, all other questions really revolve around this question : Why have you not taken any action? But the answer, I have given. The action is complete. Let me answer the specific question if the hon. Deputy-Speaker allows me. The action is complete. Action will be taken. That should settle most of the questions that have been asked. Nobody is being soft against anyone. In fact, I would be the last person to be soft on anyone who is found to have done a criminal act.

SHRI K. S. RAO (Eluru) : The investigation is complete. Am I right?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The inquiries into filing a complaint are complete and criminal action will be instituted.

After that, whatever the law will do, it will take its own course.

MD. SALIM : So, you are not lenient. Am I correct?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not. I said that action would be filed. I have taken time up to the end of this month. I said that by the end of this month or may be sooner, it would be done.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please do not disturb him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My hon. friends asked me why no PSU is willing to take it over. That is not correct. The OBC is a public sector bank. The OBC is satisfied that it has acquired a valuable asset and a valuable business. Yes, there are NPAs. But on balance, the OBC thinks that this is a good purchase for the OBC.

It is said that the ordinary people have suffered. This is a myth.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The point is that the RBI did not recommended it earlier.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, it is not correct. The RBI gave enough opportunity to the GTB to find a private domestic investor. The RBI enough opportunity to the GTB to bring in an overseas investor. But the GTB could not find a private domestic investor. When the GTB brought an overseas investor, the RBI, in consultation with me, turned that proposal down. It is so because as I said in my statement that it was a limited partnership registered in the Cayman Islands. And once it sought regulatory forbearance, prudential forbearance and a foreign jurisdiction, so, I turned it down. I think what we did is absolutely correct.

You said that the ordinary people were affected by the purchase and sale of shares just before and after the moratorium. I am afraid that is not the correct position. In fact, when you say an ordinary investor, one would assume somebody who buys hundred shares or five hundred shares or a thousand shares. Unfortunately, that is not the fact. The shares were sold in very large quantities. There is no one who has brought hundred shares or a thousand shares. I think the retail investor is more savvy than that. He knew about the decline of the GTB. There were a number of newspaper reports. In fact, as early as May, 2003, there were newspaper reports about the decline of the GTB; the GTB being asked to infuse money; the GTB being asked to bring in more capital. The Annual Inspection Reports were more or less discussed in newspapers. So, no ordinary investor is really involved in this. It is true that block shares were sold

and block shares were bought. All I can say is that if there was a seller, there was a buyer.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Who are the buyers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Just wait for a moment. You have put your question. Why do you not let me answer?

For example, a major seller is – I am giving an example – Far Eastern Investment Corporation Limited. It sells not 100 shares or 50 shares to a poor, ordinary investor, it sells 6,25,000 shares on the Stock Exchange and then there is someone who is buying it on the other side. The buyer is another FII, namely, UBI Securities (Asia) Limited which buys 6,96,549 shares.

As far as individuals are concerned, there is an individual- it may not be necessary to give his name because the name may mean nothing - who buys 10 lakh shares. When does he buy? He buys after the moratorium. Now, how do I delve into anyone's mind to find out as to why this person is buying 10 lakh shares? So, no ordinary investor has been affected.

The SEBI was asked to go into the question whether there is a connection between buyers and sellers and SEBI has arrived at a conclusion that:

"The analysis of the data and information does not suggest that sales by above persons were based on any information about a likely announcement of moratorium by the Government or the likely swap ratio. There is no evidence to suggest that they were in possession of price sensitive information. During the pre-moratorium period, the purchases were widespread. No concentrated purchases could be observed except in two cases, one, a resident of Ludhiana and another, a resident of Kanpur. The analysis did not reveal any common set of purchasers and sellers during the period. During the post - moratorium period, again the purchasers and sellers were widespread. No concentrated purchases could be observed except one, a person in Delhi, a trader who appears to have made a purchase of about 10 lakh shares on delivery basis. No adverse findings could be observed on the above transaction. It may be noted that post-moratorium, prices had fallen to a negligible level."

Now, why does someone buy the share? I can understand when someone wants to get out by selling the share. But there could be no seller unless there is a buyer. Why would somebody want to buy the share? It is beyond my comprehension.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : It is because he belongs to the OBC.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No; you are wrong Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta. The shareholder of GTB will get virtually nothing and in all probability will get nothing...*(Interruptions)* You are wrong. Please understand the swap. The shareholders of GTB will get zero. The shares are worthless...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have understood his point. It is misconceived. We have to make a distinction between depositors and shareholders. The depositors' money is safe. The shareholders will get nothing because after paying off all the debts and all the liabilities, will anything remain? Nothing would remain here. The shareholders of GTB will get nothing. Now, why does one buy and why does one sell these shares is beyond one's comprehension.

Sir, no ordinary investor was involved because when you say 'ordinary investor', was anyone inveigled or induced to buy 100 shares or 1,000 shares? These are all huge, block transactions by persons who are buying and selling shares. Maybe they are gambling, but their gamble has proved to be worth less. The shareholders of GTB will get nothing.

Sir, action will be taken and when action is taken, I will report the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I compliment the Finance Minister because he said that the criminals would be punished. But will he kindly say what action he is going to take against the Reserve Bank of India for being indulgent with the Global Trust Bank for three years? That is the question he has avoided...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please take your seat. We have to take up the next item now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, he has avoided the main question. What is he going to do with the wrongdoing of the RBI?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given the reply. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

14.55 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT)* BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No. 9. Shri H.R. Bhardwaj to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am on a point of clarification...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, it cannot be taken up at this stage. It can be taken up when the Bill comes up for discussions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already taken up the next item. There cannot be any point of clarification now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am on a point of clarification about the statute that is moved now. If you permit me, I will speak, otherwise, I will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : I introduce the Bill.

14.56 hrs.

BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL, 2004*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up item No. 10. Shri P. Chidambaram to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAM-

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 1.12.04

BARAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved:

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am going to oppose this move in the first phase. The Cooperative Movement is a Concurrent Subject. We must realise the distinction between cooperative banking and commercial banking. That distinction is not taken into consideration.

The question is that this amendment will cut the root of the cooperative movement in India. We know that rural credit is available through the cooperative banking system. The commercial banks will not come to the rescue of the farmers. They can get credit only from the nearest cooperative bank. They are working with the people's full support. If this law comes into effect, all the cooperative banks can be superseded without a show-cause notice. If this law or this amendment is allowed to prevail, the net result will be that all the cooperative banks doing banking business can be superseded. There are elected Boards of Directors. Those elected Boards of Directors will be superseded.

I can understand the provisions in the Cooperative Act. But there are safeguard in the Act. We all know that, at least, there is a provision for a show-cause notice. Before supersession, a show-cause notice is issued to the concerned cooperative society to show the reason...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, this cannot be discussed now. It can only come up when the discussion takes place.

14.58 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam, it is a State subject. You are encroaching on their right to legislate. Cooperation is a State subject. Of course, the Central Government has considered it as a concurrent subject. This is definitely an encroachment on the States' right to flourish cooperative movement in the State. You are bringing in a legislation in the guise of the Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court order does not say that the cooperative Boards of Directors will be superseded. What they would say is to have sufficient safeguards before issuing licences. You can issue licence, you can make provisions for implementing the licences. That I can understand. But why should you go beyond the directions of the Supreme Court?

The Supreme Court has never said that you evolve a provision by which the Boards of Directors can be superseded by some financiers who are controlling the Reserve Bank. They do not have any touch with the people. They are concerned with the farmers. They are only economists. They are only concerned with their business line.

15.00 hrs.

But the co-operative banks are not functioning in that lime. They have service motive. They are not for business. So, I would submit that this is highly irregular and highly illegal. It will be construed as an encroachment on the co-operative movement in which the States are very much interested. In the case of Maharashtra, I can understand if you bring in some legislation as per the provisions and as per the directions of the Supreme Court. But, why should you go beyond that power? Why should you go beyond the direction of the Supreme Court ? Why should you straightaway supersede the elected co-operative societies or co-operative boards in the guise of issuing licence? I strongly object to it. I do not stand in the way of bringing an amendment to the banking regulation. That you can do but not in this way. This is a Draconian law. You should change it to suit the aims of the co-operative movement in India which is a people's movement. It is not a business movement. It is not concerned with profit or loss. It is concerned with service. Why should you bring in such a legislation? You can very well give some direction as per the directions of the Supreme Court, which I can understand. But this is too much. So, I oppose it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, with great respect to the hon. Member, I think the Opposition is not quite justified. What we are doing is we are amending two Central Acts. One Central Act being amended is the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and the other Central Act being amended is Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961. At this stage of introduction if the hon. Member is able to point the Chair that Parliament does not have legislative competence to amend these Acts, that objection can be answered. He does not say so. He cannot say so. These are two Central Acts made by Parliament. Parliament is, therefore, competent to amend these Central Acts. We can debate the merits of amendment.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The questions is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, I introduce the Bill.

15.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

**Banking Regulation (Amendment) and
Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Ordinance, 2004 (No. 3 of 2004).

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 737/04)

15.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take up Matters under rule 377.

Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu.

- (i) **Need to delegate powers to Members of Parliament to review implementation of Central Government sponsored projects in their constituencies**

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): Madam Chairman, I draw the attention of the Central Government regarding the delegation of powers to the hon. Members of Parliament to review the projects and programmes which are financed by the Central Government. Though there is a Vigilance Committee constituted by Rural Development Department, but it is not sufficient to curb the irregularities done by the functionaries of the State Government.

- (ii) **Need to take initiatives to open a dialogue with insurgent groups in the North Eastern States of Manipur, Assam and Nagaland**

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur) : It is very encouraging that our Government is moving forward towards finding a permanent solution of the vexed problem of insurgency in the North-East. The recent visit of the Prime Minister to Manipur and Assam has given a positive signal to the people of the region. It is a very well known fact that insurgency has been the only hurdle to the development and progress of the region. It is also a fact that there are more than 19 insurgent outfits operating in Manipur alone.

The offer of talks by the Prime Minister to the insurgents in the North-East should be taken in the right earnest by all. Now we have a Prime Minister who is willing to listen and talk to agitating Manipuris, all insurgents and also continue the Naga dialogue. A conducive atmosphere is being created by the recent visit of the Prime Minister and his open and down-to-earth approach. At this juncture, the Union Government should act and send feelers to the insurgents and start interaction with them. Such a prudent step will certainly help to bring them to the negotiating table and besides finding a political solution to insurgency in the region.

- (iii) **Need to introduce direct flights from Riyadh and Dammam to Hyderabad**

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : Madam Chairman, the workers from Andhra Pradesh residing in Riyadh and Dammam have represented to the State Government that out of four lakh Andhra Pradesh workers residing in Saudi Arabia, 37 per cent are based in Jeddah while 33 per cent and 30 per cent are based in Riyadh and Dammam respectively. They have requested for direct flights from Riyadh and Dammam. I, therefore, request the Union Government to introduce direct flights from Riyadh and Dammam to Hyderabad for the convenience of the workers who are residing in Saudi Arabia.

- (iv) **Need to set up a Head Post Office at Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY (Maharajganj, U.P.) Madam Chairman, the people of my constituency Maharajganj, (U.P.) have to face great problem due to the lack of a Head Post Office here. They have to travel as far as 50 to 100 kilometres to reach the Head Post Office at Kudaghat situated in district Gorakhpur. It not only results in a lot of inconvenience to the public but also a lot of wastage of time and money. If the Head Post Office is set up in Maharajganj, the people will not have to travel so far and it will save the time as well as money.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to immediately set up a Head Post Office at Maharajganj keeping in view problems of the people related to post.

- (v) **Need to provide air-link to Ajmer city in Rajasthan**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairman, Ajmer is the heart of Rajasthan. This city assumes the importance from historical tourism, educational and religious point of view. This city has shrine of famous Sufi Saint Khwajah Muynuddin Chisti, famous Hindu pilgrimage and important tourist centre, Pushkar, Asia's famous Marble trading centre, Kishangarh, famous and old contonment, Nasirabad, textile industries like Bhilwara and historical place

like Nagaur, where lakhs of people visit from all over the world. The city assumes importance from Railway and CRPF point of view also. Thousands of Non Residents Indians (NRIs) particularly people belonging to Sindhi community are residing here who have their business in African countries and in Singapore, Philippines, England, America, Dubai etc. and they visit Ajmer several times in year. From all these point of view, it is necessary to provide air link to Ajmer. But despite several assurances by the Union Government airport has not been set up there as yet.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that in order to provide air link to Ajmer, an airport should be set up without any further delay at the place named Kayad after the acquisition of land keeping in view the importance of Ajmer.

- (vi) **Need to release the Central share of funds for various developmental programmes in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Madam Chairman, there has been a delay in the allocation of funds by the Union Government for the centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Madhya Pradesh and for the schemes launched by the State Government itself. It includes mainly highways and centrally sponsored housing schemes. Due to the paucity of funds, these schemes have either come to a standstill or being implemented, at a snail's pace.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to release the funds immediately for the various schemes being implemented in Madhya Pradesh without any further delay.

- (vii) **Need to enact a Central legislation for enabling regulation of admissions to unaided private professional institutes**

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : Madam Chairman, the Government should enact a Central legislation to address the grave situation arising out of the Supreme Court's judgement in the 'T.M.A. Pai Foundation and Others Vs. The State of Karnataka and Others' case. This judgement has granted the managements of private unaided educational institutions complete freedom in matters of admissions, fee structure and recruitment. T.M.A. Pai case and its interpretation by another bench of apex court has provided enormous scope of profiteering to private self financing colleges in the absence of a regulatory mechanism. The managements of these colleges have resorted to massive fee hikes, which has resulted in many meritorious students being denied an opportunity to study because of their inability to pay. In the light of the above, a Central legislation should be enacted which would provide adequate powers to the State Governments to control these institutions. The legislation should provide that:

(a) All admissions to private unaided professional institutes should be through a common entrance test conducted by the Central and State Governments;

(b) the Government should have powers to prescribe the maximum fees chargeable by these institutions; and

(c) the Constitutional provision of 22.5 per cent reservation for SC/ST students as well as other provisions for representation of students from deprived sections should be upheld.

- (viii) **Need to construct a bridge on river Yamuna at Mahewa Ghat in Chail Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam Chairman, the construction of a bridge at Mahewa Ghat on river Yamuna in Chail Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh will shorten the distance between various districts of Uttar Pradesh as well as between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which will facilitate the movement of traders, tourists and the people of both the States. Besides, this will provide new employment opportunities to the people of both the States.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the traders, tourists and the people of both the States, a bridge on river Yamuna at Mahewa Ghat in Chail Parliamentary Constituency be constructed without any delay.

- (ix) **Need to bring Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited, Patna under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways**

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited. This company was emerged as a private company and previously it was known as Britania Engineering Company. The Government had taken over the company in 1974 as Private Management was failed to run this company. This company has its head office at Patna and its main business is the production of various types of wagons. The company has been conferred upon Indira Gandhi Memorial National Award for best management and also productivity awards twice continuously. Madam Chairman, the recognised Union of this company has suggested to bring this company under the Ministry of Railways and I am also of the view that this company can function more efficiently under the Ministry of Railways.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to bring Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited, the Sole heavy Engineering Company of Bihar, under the Ministry of Railways without any further delay so that the industrial development of Bihar could be undertaken.

(x) Need to set up a Mango Research Centre in Shahabad fruit belt, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Madam Chairman, in 1997, my parliamentary constituency, Shahabad and 93 villages were declared fruit belt but the State Government has not provided any facilities meant for fruit belt to the farmers so far. Even the quantum of power, available to other fruit belts is not being provided to Shahabad fruit belt.

Through this House, I request the Union Government to set up a Mango Research Centre and allied research centre at Shahabad and instruct the State Government to reduce the power cut in this area.

(xi) Need to provide adequate relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities in Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI A. K. S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam) : Madam Chairman, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts in my constituency have been facing severe drought consecutively for the last three years. Recently the Central Drought Monitoring Committee have also visited these districts and submitted their reports to the Department concerned to release funds for drought relief. But the funds have not been released so far. Further, the heavy rainfall in entire Tamil Nadu has added to the misery. The crops cultivated (through loans raised by the agriculturists) in more than 10 lakh acres have been damaged. More than 50 people have died and thousands of huts/small houses have perished due to heavy rainfall and floods. The connectivity roads in all the villages in these districts have also been damaged heavily. Epidemics like cholera have spread and proper medicines are not available in the Government hospitals.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate relief measures and supply seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to the agriculturists for cultivation in the post rain season. Special assistance to build houses under Indira Awas Yojana may also be extended to the people whose houses were destroyed in the rain.

(xii) Need to expedite the construction of the second rail bridge over river Mahanadi in Orissa

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Madam Chairperson, the

rail line between Talcher and Paradeep is a vital link between the mine-head and the sea port earning a large revenue for the East Coast Railway Zone. Due to heavy traffic, the Railway have invested a large sum of money to build a second rail line connecting Talcher with Paradeep. But the progress of this second line is getting delayed year after year thereby not only escalating the cost of construction but also loss of traffic due to congestion.

The second rail line from Talcher to Nirgundi is complete and the second rail bridge over river Birupa is nearing completion. The second rail line from Paradeep to Rajhans is also nearly completed. But the construction of the major second rail bridge over river Mahanadi is yet to start. Unless the rails bridge over Mahanadi is constructed, the whole investment of hundreds of crores of rupees on this second rail line is of little use.

I urge upon the Government to take up the construction of the second rail bridge over Mahanadi expeditiously and to clear the bottleneck and congestion that occurs everyday between Nirgundi and Barang railway stations of Cuttack.

(xiii) Need to declare Punjabi as an official language of the Union Territory of Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Madam Chairperson, with your permission, I would like to make this submission in Punjabi.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I think there is no interpreter.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I had given it in writing yesterday and I am sure the arrangement would be there.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The translation may not be there but he can still speak in Punjabi.

*SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Madam, Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana and the headquarters of the Union Territory, has a population of about 10 lakhs. It is an important city of northern India. From the various surveys and the Census Reports, it is abundantly clear that the majority of the residents speak Punjabi, which is their mother tongue. However, the language continues to be denied its due recognition as an official language of the Union

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

Territory, though Delhi and Haryana have accorded it the status of second language.

Accordingly, I urge the Government of India to declare Punjabi in Gurmukhi script as an official language for Chandigarh Union Territory, mandating the Administration and other authorities to conduct business in Punjabi besides the present system of doing it in Hindi and English.

15.14 hrs.

CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE
LAWS (REPEAL) BILL, 2004

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up item No. 13 - Customs and Central Excise Laws (Repeal) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : With your permission, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal certain Customs and Central Excise enactments, be taken into considerations."

This is a very simple Bill. Some Acts had become redundant and obsolete. An expert group was constituted in the Department of Revenue to review existing laws, rules, and regulations. This group has recommended that these enactments may be repealed and they are listed in the Annexure to the Bill. When examined, it was found that the Customs and Central Excise Laws (Amendment) Act of 1988 had introduced certain sections to establish an appellate tribunal but the tribunal was not set up. Subsequently, of course, the Customs Act was amended to set up the tribunal but these provisions were also redundant and obsolete. Therefore, these redundant provisions and the redundant Acts are sought to be repealed so that they do not remain in the statute book and clutter the statute book. Therefore, this is a non-controversial Bill. I would humbly appeal to all hon. Members to join in passing this Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal certain Customs and Central Excise enactments, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairman. In this regard I would like to request that information may be sought from the experts of law in respect of Bills which are to be repealed and only then these should be brought simultaneously. The laws which are no longer effective and have lost their importance, should be listed and repealed simultaneously after consulting the Law Commi-

ssion and experts of Law Ministry so that the precious time of the House could be saved.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Madam Chairman, I also want to give a suggestion in this regard. Hon'ble Minister has presented the Bill in a very good manner, there is no dispute over it. P.C. Jain Committee was constituted during his previous tenure as Finance Minister. This Committee has not only mentioned about such laws of Finance Department but also about the ineffective laws relating to other departments and suggested that these laws should be repealed. They had listed and published 148 such laws. Therefore, Government should bring a Bill to repeal all those Bills.

Hon'ble Finance Minister is going to make a major change in revenue and custom duty. I think powers of States especially in Finance matters and tax assessment should not be snatched away in this way. Recently, Finance Ministers of States held a meeting with the Union Minister of Finance and stated that states should get 50% shares of the total tax collection especially in respect of service tax.

Government of India is increasing its tax network but it is intervening in the tax network of States. Such a tendency should be checked. Government is implementing VAT but businessmen are opposing it. Multi-national companies and big industrialists are in favour of implementing this system. All the State Governments have agreed to implement it except Uttar Pradesh. The role of hon'ble Finance Minister is very important in satisfying Uttar Pradesh Government. Despite that I would like to request that in the wake of the tax provision under revenue and custom duty, the State Government should not feel such problems in future that Central Government wants to interfere in their rights and usurp their powers. It would be inappropriate if State Governments become dependent on the Central Government for finance.

With these suggestions, I support the Bill presented by hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, I take note of the suggestion that the laws mentioned by this Finance Commission and the Review Committee as laws which deserve to be repealed must be repealed soon. You will kindly appreciate that each Ministry has to bring a Bill to repeal the respective laws. I shall certainly pass on the suggestion to my colleagues in the Ministry and ask them to bring Bills to repeal the laws which are obsolete.

As regard the suggestion of another hon. Member, I think, we have started a new chapter by involving the State Finance Ministers in major fiscal policy changes. Only

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

yesterday I held a meeting with State Finance Ministers on service tax. I have held three rounds of meetings with State Finance Ministers on VAT. I have met the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He is now on board. All the States have agreed that VAT will be implemented. I will continue this practice of consulting the State Finance Ministers in respect of major tax reforms and fiscal changes. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal certain Customs and Central Excise enactments, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause - by - clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"The clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Scheduled was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

15.26 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems being faced by Jute Industry - Contd.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up further discussion regarding problems being faced by Jute Industry, raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia on the 18th August 2004.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Hon. Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place my views before this august House though the discussion is now belated. It is a long-pending discussion. The problems of jute industry do not pertain only to my State West Bengal but also the States of Bihar, Assam,

Orissa; and in Andhra Pradesh also, many new jute mills are coming up. Some industrialists out of their own decisions are moving out from West Bengal to expand their industry or business in other States. This is welcome, but they are not paying the legitimate dues to the workmen. Workmen's rights are curtailed in all possible ways and they are taking advantage of the limitations or the weaknesses of the working class movement in those States only to make more and more profit, which in a capitalist society is the order of the day.

Madam, what I intend to draw your kind attention to is that from 29th of this month, in our State all the central trade unions working in the jute industry were to start a continuous strike with the legitimate demand for the implementation of the tripartite memorandum of settlement between the management and the unions. Through the good offices of the Government of West Bengal, the strike has been averted. Everybody will be happy that the workers did not feel it necessary to go on continuous strike since most of their demands were acceded to by the recalcitrant employers. It is due to the policy of the Left Front Government to uphold the rights of the workers as well as to protect the interest of the industry that the strike did not materialise.

You will be pained to learn that one of the partners of the National Democratic Alliance in West Bengal - I do not want to name that Party - has opposed this agreement. Our hon. Minister has helped us a lot. That Party, which has only one Member in this House, is not pleased with the agreement because the Left Front Government has helped the workers and the management to come to a negotiated settlement. On the 30th of this month, they had given another strike call which was foiled by the jute workers. That strike took place only in a limited way. Only two or three mills participated in it.

The question that faces us is, how would the jute industry service. Hon. Minister knows full well that demand for jute goods is on the increase in the international market. I read in the newspapers that we have won the case that we were fighting in Brazil for protection of our jute goods to be sold there. So, there is a possibility of huge demand in the international markets. So also, the road industry would be utilising the jute bags for development of roads. This will also increase the employment opportunities. There is every possibility that this jute industry will not only survive but will expand and capture the domestic and international markets.

Very recently, I had the opportunity of participating in a two-day conference to discuss about the Comprehensive Jute Policy. That conference was organised by the Jute Manufacturing Council one of the organisations under our Textile Ministry. They organised this conference for the first time. I have been in the trade union field for the last forty years but this is the first time that the Government has taken up a plan

to convene a meeting involving all sections of the sector. Agriculture, marketing, research, development, technical upgrading, labour environment all aspects have been taken into consideration. Representatives from all walks of life relating to this sector have contributed in this meeting.

On the 25th of last month, Shri Vaghela called a meeting of the Consultative Committee. Unfortunately, I was not able to be present here. I wrote to him a letter, I do not know whether he received it or not. I have requested him to go through the entire proceedings and to constitute a Study Team comprising of technical experts so that we could finalise the Comprehensive Jute Policy in the Consultative Committee and then place it before the House.

There is every possibility that this industry will survive. There is every possibility that this market will expand further. New products will come out of the textile goods. Earlier it was called the 'golden fibre'. May more ancillary products could come which could create new opportunities. It will serve the interests of lakhs and lakhs of farmers. So, I would appeal through you to the Hon. Minister to organise further discussion, and formulate a comprehensive jute policy which can safeguard the interest of the industry, interest of the farmers, interest of the workers, and it will add an impetus to our economy.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam, Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 being held on the problems being faced by the Jute Industry.

Hon'ble Minister of Textile's present her. Just now, hon'ble Member has putforth his views about the problems of jute industry. Earlier also a wide discussion on this matter has taken place in the House. It is a fact that most of the jute is produced in Southern India and the matter directly concerns the farmers and workers. Therefore, we should have serious discussion to safeguard the interests of the industry especially our farmers and workers. So far as jute is concerned, it is connected with religious faith also. I know that all the followers of Jaigurudev Maharaj wear jute cloth. Secondly, Madam Chairman, you must have visited the Pandals of Durga Puja. These Pandals are decorated with jute and even the idols are decorated with jute.

Madam Chairman, earlier only jute bags were used in our country to contain cement, foodgrains, food items etc. However, these bags have vanished for the last few years and plastic bags have replaced them. These plastic bags are hazardous for our environment. Hon'ble Minister of Textile is present here, I would like to tell him that we often come

across the news on T.V. and newspapers about the suicides committed by the farmers for not repaying the loan taken by them. There are several factories where stikes and lock outs often takes place.

Madam Chairman, while shopping in a market, you must have seen beautiful jute bags to carry the goods. However, plastic goods are more in fashion now-a-days and it has become essential to give importance to jute also. This matter directly concerns the farmers, workers and environment. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister of Textile to formulate such a policy on jute which does not have adverse effect on farmers and workers of jute industry rather it should benefit them.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri K.S.Rao - not present.

Shri Tarit Baran Topdar- not present.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri) : Thank you, Madam Chairman, for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the burning problems of Jute growers and Jute industries. I would also like to thank Shri Basu Deb Acharia for taking up this issue for discussion. The geographic condition, topography and climate are very congenial for the growth of Jute in Assam. In India, about 12 million bales of Jute is produced, out of which, the share of Assam is about one million bales. We have about 53 per cent of the working class linked with this project.

We have two problems. Firstly, in Assam and North-East, there is not a single Jute industry. So, naturally from pre-Independence days, we have been supplying Jute to West Bengal for their industries. The main problem is with the Jute growers. In 2001-02, the support price for Jute was about Rs. 785 to Rs. 850.

But in Assam, jute growers had to sell their jute for Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 only. Actually, for producing a quintal of jute, jute growers have to spend Rs. 350 to Rs. 400. So, the jute growers of Assam never get the support price. This year also, though the support price was around Rs. 900 in Assam, jute was sold at Rs. 350 to Rs. 500 only. This was fifty per cent of the support price. Now the Jute Corporation of India have got their centres and sub-centres. They do not arrive in the market at proper time. They do not arrive in the market in the months of June or July. They arrive only in the month of late September or October. As a result of that, the growers are compelled to sell their jute to brokers and middlemen. These brokers and middlemen have got connection with the Jute Corporation of India. They have got some understanding with them. The Jute Corporation of India does not arrive in the market at a proper time, as a result, peasants are exploited.

[Shri Anwar Hussain]

Another point is that these sub-centres and centres, for procuring jute, are so insufficient in number and located at such places that peasants cannot reach those places. Taking this advantage, the brokers and middlemen exploit the farmers. I, therefore, request the Government of India to look into the matter and ensure that the Jute Corporation of India opens up centres and sub-centres for procuring jute, at proper places. In my constituency, there is a place called Manka-char. If anybody has got any geographical knowledge of Mankachar, he will say that it is the remotest place having no communication facility. The Jute Corporation of India has opened a sub-centre at this place and not at the district headquarters or other sub-divisional headquarters. So, this JCI should be compelled to open their centres at proper places and procure jute directly from the farmers and not from the brokers and middlemen.

Lastly, late Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the former President of India had laid the foundation stone of a jute mill at Barpeta in late seventies. That jute mill is yet to be established. So, I urge upon the Government to establish the jute mill at Barpeta and another at Dubhri in the best interests of the jute growers of Assam.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. We are discussing about the jute industry of our country. The conditions of jute industry are very bad.

The jute industry is getting ruined day by day though it is very much old and traditional industry of our country. It equally relates to the jute growers also. There are so many jute industries not only in West Bengal but also in Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and other States.

Now, the jute growers are suffering from a lot of problems. They are not getting the remunerative prices. The earlier speakers have already stated in this very House that the Jute Corporation of India is not coming forward to purchase the jute from the jute growers, that is, the farmers. As a result, the farmers are compelled to come in the clutches of the brokers. So, the functioning of the JCI is not at all satisfactory. Due to the reluctance and callousness of the JCI, the jute growers, the *kisans* are compelled to come in the clutches of the middlemen.

Madam, my feeling is that this should not come under the purview of the Textile Ministry. It should come under the purview of the Agriculture Ministry. The Government of India is represented in this House. So, I urge upon the Government of India to come forward and take necessary steps in order to save the thousands and thousands of jute growers who are living in a very critical condition.

Madam, I am reiterating that the jute industry is very much old and one of the traditional industries of the country.

The jute industries are situated in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and several other States. But the condition of the jute workers is very bad. They are suffering from very many problems. They are living in a precarious condition which is getting ruined day by day. In West Bengal, particularly, on both the sides of the Ganges, so many jute industries are situated. But some of the jute industries are already closed, and thousands of jute workers are thrown out of their job. They are compelled to live under the blue sky. The workers are coming to work in the jute industries at Kolkata on both the sides of the Ganges, Howrah district, Hooghly District, North 24-Parganas District, South 24-Parganas District within West Bengal. The workers are also coming from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Assam to work in the various jute industries in West Bengal. But the conditions of the jute industries are very bad. Some unscrupulous owners of the jute industries are wilfully declaring lockouts and depriving the jute workers of their livelihoods.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to save the jute industry, the traditional industry of our country.

As has already been stated by earlier speakers, jute is very much pollution free also. The polythene is creating hazards and pollution whereas the jute products are all pollution free. But I am very sorry to say that the earlier Government, i.e., the NDA Government, succumbed to the pressure of the polythene lobby and they lifted the order of cent per cent jute packaging.

15.50 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

They succumbed to the pressure of the lobby of synthetic workers and introduced synthetic bags. So, I would urge the hon. Minister to take initiative in this regard and declare jute packaging compulsory in case of rice, wheat, cement and other products. We met the hon. Minister and requested him to come forward to save the jute workers as well as the jute industry. The Government have enacted laws, issued orders also making jute packaging compulsory up to 2005. It has not been made compulsory forever. So, this order should be modified so that the jute packaging is made compulsory. This should be done in the interest of not only the jute industry but also in the interest of the people of this country.

My friend has just told that if one visits the *pandals* of *Durga Puja* or *Diwali*, he will find that very good *pandals* are made not of cloth but of jute. You may see very artistic *pandals* made of jute during *Durga Puja* or *Diwali*. Various countries in the world are also very much interested in import of jute. Very good carpets are made of jute. I visited your State, Kerala, and found that very good carpets are being

made by mixing the husk of coconut with jute. So, it is a very useful material and can be put to use for different purposes.

I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the hon. Textile Minister to come forward to save the jute industry from ruin. A large number of jute workers are being thrown out of job. At the initiative of the Labour Minister of West Bengal an agreement was reached whereby all the trade unions, cutting across Party lines, decided to call a strike. The jute industry workers have unanimously decided to call a strike in the interest of the jute industry. At the initiative of the hon. Minister of the West Bengal Government a tripartite agreement between the owners, the Government and the jute workers was arrived to call a strike by all the trade unions. The strike called by all the unions has been lifted. I hope the hon. Textile Minister will come forward to save the jute industry from ruin.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I am thankful to the hon. Minister that the new Textile Minister has been taking keen interest in the improvement of the industry.

About ten days back, a very important Conference was held at Kolkata for framing a National Jute Policy and important sectors of the industry including the manufacturers and the trade unions also participated. The discussion was divided and sub-divided into different sectors. The hon. Minister had invited me also but unfortunately I could not attend it as I was busy in another meeting. I believe he has been working in accordance with the mandate given in the CMP. In the CMP, there is a mandate to the new Government that this important industry should be restructured and the jute should be encouraged. When there was a crisis created by certain sectors in the matter of dilution of the Jute Packaging Order, the hon. Minister took keen interest to find out a solution and I thank him for that. The Food Minister, other Ministers and the Prime Minister also responded appropriately, warmly and immediately to the representations made by the Members of Parliament belonging to different sections. I am thankful to the Government for that. But the industry as such is facing new types of crisis. Firstly, those sections of the industry, which are engaged in producing the traditional goods, are facing a new type of competition and domestically the competition is taking different shapes. I shall mention one of them only.

Very recently, an agreement was reached between the Indian Jute Manufacturers Association and the trade unions in a tripartite meeting. The outcome of it is that an individual worker will get as much as Rs. 264 as a minimum wage. But in some parts of the country - I am not mentioning the names - only Rs. 80 are being paid. Now the industrialists say that it is a difficulty if we have to pay Rs. 264 in West Bengal and others pay Rs. 80 only in other parts of the country. So, this has become a national issue. There should be uniform jute

price and uniform wage structure. I am happy that the Minister is very much concerned with the issue. When the labour issues are being discussed in the National Jute Policy, various issues like social security, uneven social security, uneven wage structure, etc. should also be discussed. There are various types of workers like permanent, semi-permanent, casual, etc. The Left Front Government in West Bengal has set the issue - I do not say satisfactory - to some extent by assuring a minimum wage and all the different names and nomenclatures like casual workers have been done away with.

As you know, in West Bengal jute industry, most of the workers belong to States like Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, etc. In spite of people coming from different provinces, different States and with different religious background, there is harmony in West Bengal which is our pride. Sometimes, there have been occasions where some nuisance has been created but broadly people belonging to different parts of the country live together peacefully. The capital belongs to the people who do not belong to West Bengal actually but they have adopted West Bengal as their State.

So, I would urge upon the Government that when it is trying to frame the National Jute Policy, it should address the issues relating to jute growers, jute corporations to see as to why they are not working properly. I would like to mention two things for incorporating in the National Jute Policy. We have excellent jute scientists and the Government of India has very important research institutes.

16.00 hrs.

Countries like Vietnam, China, Laos are using jute products for building material, clothing and furnishings and are doing very well. We also are doing well but unfortunately, research institutes like IJIRA and such other bodies are being neglected. In case of Jute Corporation, we find that a bureaucrat is chosen and put at the helm of affairs of the Corporation, but such a thing is not done in case of others. These are some of the grievances of the jute industry.

The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the Government as well as to the Textile Minister giving certain suggestions. I think, the new Minister of Textiles has certain ideas in his mind. He is interacting with many people. I also had an occasion to interact with the hon. Minister on the issue of the NJMC. There is talk of having a project and then based on the experience of that pilot project, the hon. Minister can proceed further. I welcome it. But conversion or privatisation route is not the solution. He has been taking keen interest in the subject and the hon. Prime Minister also has been taking interest in the matter. I am sure, with all sorts of help from important quarters, the jute industry would certainly look up. This is also one of the objectives of the CMP.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Sir, I mentioned that there is unevenness in the matter of encouragement, there is unevenness in the matter of implementation of packaging orders, etc. These are creating problems. There are about one crore people associated with this industry and a large number of them belong to the States of Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and of course, West Bengal. The livelihood of these many people is dependent on the jute industry.

Sir, as you would know, before the partition of Bengal, the jute mills were on both sides of the Ganges. While Quality jute was produced in Bangladesh. Now, jute is coming from Bangladesh. We are happy that Bangladesh, with the help of the UNDP programme, is doing well. There are quite a number of self-reliant groups. But we also have a great potential. We can grow good quality and high yielding variety of jute in the north-eastern parts India in West Bengal, in Bihar and also in Andhra Pradesh. This industry needs to be encouraged and promoted. The research institutes can help in getting diversified products from jute but unfortunately, these research bodies are being neglected. I welcome the initiative taken by the hon. Textile Minister and I believe that with all the sorts of help from important quarters, we will achieve success. It has been declared in the CMP that jute industry is one such industry which will not be neglected any further. I hope, this new UPA Government will give it a lot of encouragement to make it stand up and look up.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the jute industry at present is losing its significance due to the changing values. During last few years there has been decline in our values and I feel that it is due to this that jute units which were set up in large number in the cooperative sector in States like Bihar, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh by assessing their importance only on the basis of their profitability. Our Government have come in power and I feel that initiatives should be taken by the Government to revive financially the jute industry whether in cooperative sector or private sector.

There is adequate production of jute in Bihar especially in eastern Bihar. The production in northern and Central Bihar is also good. The jute industry needs innovative approach and many institutions claim to work in this direction. Though there are jute corporation, jute technology mission, NCJD for its marketing and many other schemes, however, I would like to submit that these said schemes are not actually being implemented in backward States. Backward and forward linkages of industries in the field of raw material of jute is not reaching to the farmers. R & D work conducted in this sector fail to reach the farmers and there is bottleneck in the field of marketing and it is on account of this that there is not development of industries in this sector. Despite assigning primary importance to environment in the comprehensive

interest, plastic lobby is competing with it so I feel that there is need to ban it by way of decentralised publicity at the local level and through formulating rules and regulations in this regard. There is need to formulate rules in this regard, though in gradual process, so that the environment as well as the industry on which lakhs of people depend for their livelihood can be saved.

The hon'ble Member speaking before me as has rightly submitted that many people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are engaged in jute industry in West Bengal and Assam. Their livelihood depend on it. So we should emphasize on making effective jute policy. Moreover the outcome of the research organisations, whether they are engaged in raw material of jute or the industry, should be decentralised and disseminated among farmers and small jute industrial units. Presently there is lack of this approach. Recently, I got opportunity to visit Japan with the hon'ble Speaker where I found many small handicraft items made of jute that were produced by jute industry in unorganised sector and were sold at handsome price. I was told that such efforts have been made by trade fair organisation. The coordination work in that area must be performed by the Ministry of Textile and there is need to organise programmes at a wider scale by the Ministry of Textile and there is need to organise programmes at a wider scale by the Ministry and the Department for value addition to the products produced by the cottage industries in rural areas where low quantity of jute is produced so that persons involved in it may sustain. All these things are required to be included in the said policy. As far the forward linkage is concerned, not only jute but other sectors should also be included in it where there is bulk production as only two to three percent of the total production is properly marketed and the major part of it is purchased by middlemen in local market at a lower price and the marginal farmers are deprived of the remunerative price of their products and as a result of this they gradually decrease the quantum of production of that products and are attracted towards other item. So separate and elaborate provisions should be made within the said policy for the cottage industries in the jute sector so that these industries may also develop along with the big industries. Backward and forward linkages are required mainly for marginal and small industries which are not aware as to what to produce and where to sell those products. So several programmes right from entrepreneurship are required in this sector. Besides rehabilitation programme for the sick industry unit in this is sector along with entrepreneurial programme is also required to be prepared and I feel that the Government is working towards it. It is also essential to rehabilitate agriculture in those areas where favourable condition like black soil and moisture are available for the cultivation of jute but the production is low as the industries are lying sick and there is no marketing facility available for it. People are discontinuing its cultivation. So there is need to enhance the

production of jute and facilitate marketing facility for the industry.

Without taking more time, I would like to draw the attention of the House to one or two points. Major segment of jute industry is engaged in the production of jute bags however there is need to emphasize on high value marketing and high value addition in this sector as there is better future prospects for the utilisation of golder fiber. So research organisations should be engaged in this field and all possible steps should be taken to enhance the export. The need for formulation of farmer and labourers oriented National Policy is being felt. So, through the hon'ble Chairman, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that keeping in view the minimum support price for the farmers, the Government should streamline the marketing of raw material and finish products of this industry as it may give valuable contribution to the national productivity.

SHRI BRAHMANAND PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have already given a notice informing that I would deliver my speech in my mother tongue. So, I may kindly be permitted to deliver my speech in my mother tongue.

*Mr Chairman Sir. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I congratulate my esteemed friends present here. In States like Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, farmers depend upon jute cultivation. They sell their produce in the market. In the absence of a proper pricing of jute, the jute growers are being exploited. In Orissa, the jute farmers are the worst sufferers.

Jute has a lot of importance from the religious point of view. It is used in many ways in handicraft industry. However, in the modern era the use of 'synthetic' is having an adverse impact upon jute products and is affecting the lives of jute farmers. The religious history of this country bears ample testimony to the glorious tradition of jute. Jute has influenced both the economic and natinal life of this country. The jute farmers are now in doldrums.

The jute produced in Orissa gets sold in West Bengal and other States but the farmers never really get their due. From this point of view I would request the hon. Minister of formulate a National Jute Policy which will protect the interests of the jute farmers. India is the land of farmers. The history of India is the history of farmers and it is reflected in our religious moornigs too. The present Government of UPA is committed to the welfare of the farmers. If they are serious to their commitment they must pay adequate attention to the problems of farmers. Jute is being extensively used in making various kinds of handicraft products like bags, purses and several other luxury items. Jute is much in demand in

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

rural as well as urban areas. It also has export potential. However, in recent times the use of synthetic is highly increasing thereby adversely affecting the jute industry. We must pay serious attention to it.

As you are aware, I belong to Orissa, the land of Lord Jagannath, where equality and harmony rules, where farmers and labourers must get their due. Hence it is our moral duty to better their lot.

Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak in this august House and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, through you I would like to request the Government that Jute Industry is a very important industry of the country and as has been suggested by several hon. Friends, there is a need to formulate a National Jute Policy. This industry has a very prime place in the north Eastern region of the country. Approximately 40 lakh families in India are dependent on the agriculture of jute and 2 lakh thousand employees are engaged in various jute manufacturing units in the country. This is sufficient for one to indicate as to how important this jute industry is in the country. Previous NDA Government had formulated various schemes to promote this industry. Jute Manufacturing Development Council's (JMDC) role was given serious mulling in the year 2001-2002. Sir, jute units of West Bengal can provide goods results but the industries in the State are in State of sickness due to the strike policy of the Government there and jute industry has not remain unaffected. The investors of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Rajasthan who have invested their money in this industry want these units to continue functioning. Through the Government of Bengal and the MP's of left parties sitting here do indulge in a lot of rhetoric regarding the welfare of the workers but there is a huge incongruency in what the West Bengal Government says and what they actually practice. Consequently several Jute producing units are turning sick.

Sir, presently there are approximately 78 jute mills functional in the country. Out of them one mill at Kanpur is lying closed. Approximately 37 jute producing units are in state of sickness. Cases of approximately 30 jute producing units have been referred to BIFR that needs to be addressed. Therefore, there is a need to formulate a National Jute Policy. Previous NDA Government had initiated the process of doing away with the bottlenecks in the path of setting up of National Jute Technology Mission but elections happened to come. Hon. Minister of Textiles is sitting here. I request him to set up the Jute Technology Mission so that the farmers producing jute could get the proper remunerative prices of their produce and the jute producing units may also continue to get the raw material. The result of the previous Government's efforts to boost the export of Jute are before

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

everybody...*(Interruptions)* Previous Government took several initiatives to promote the export of Jute products. Jute manufacturing Development Corporation which is a statutory body and is responsible for implementing various jute promotion measures. It extended the External Market Assistance Scheme 2002 for another one year and provided subsidy under the scheme. Besides Duty Entry Pass Book Scheme for jute products was introduced from July 2002. The jute export grew by the 47 percent in 2002-2003 vis a vis 2001-2002. It reflects as how the farmers started to get proper remunerative price for their produce and export got a boost resulting in 47 percent increase in production in the year 2002-2003 vis a vis 2001-2002 owing to the policies undertaken by NDA Government. Alongwith it, the research institutes were strengthened so that the farmers, could get always the remunerative prices. NDA Government made every efforts in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards one more thing. Hon. Minister is also sitting here. When the Planning Commission has given its approval and recommendation for setting up of a Jute Technology Mission and the Textiles Technology Mission has also proved a success, there is a urgent need to set up a Jute Technology Mission. As I told that the previous Government had formulated schemes to promote jute industry, give a fillip to the investment in this section and to strengthen the R & D in it. There is a need to implement the recommendations of the Expert Group set up to oversee the various above mentioned aspects of jute industry. Previous Government had formulated scheme to promote the jute industry but the elections happened to come. The responsibility of implementing the policies formulated during the regime of previous Government is on the shoulders of the present Government. It is expected from the Ministry of Textile that it would effectively implement these policies so that jute growers as well as the jute manufacturing units could benefitted.

Sir, I would like to raise one more point. There is a constant demand to ban the use of plastics. Environmentalists have been lobbying for it for the last several years and several State Governments have put the ban on use of plastic. However use of plastic is increasing in several other States. The banning of plastic would also encourage the use of jute bags and packages. There is a need to ponder over in this direction. There is a need to take up the cases of sick units in regard to BIFR so that the machinery of sick units could be utilised properly. Farmers produce the jute but does not have access to the market. I am of the opinion that there should be jute markets on the line of other markets so that material could be supplied to the manufacturing units. It would also ensure the receipt of full price of their produce. Alongwith it there is also a need to pay full attention towards the Research Centres as well condition. The communist Government has been in power in west Bengal for the last

several years. They have acquired the reputation of being the well wisher of the workers and they don't let any opportunity to shed crocodile tears go away. They don't let any opportunity to shed crocodile tears go way. They should have ensured that those units should continue to be functional and get constant supply of electricity and power and also don't have to face other problems. They have to face frequent strikes, gheroes and dharna. Hence during this present age of liberalisation there is a need to create investor friendly environment to onset this process. There is also a need to reconsider the policy of providing External Market Assistance. The new Government can consider this matter.

With there words, through you, I would like to say that there is a need to implement those policies effectively that seeks to increase the export and production of jute and revive the sick jute producing units. There is also a need to ponder on the reasons for the growing irrelevance of Indian Jute Corporation. There is a need to do away with this inefficiency so that the industries contributing to national exchequer my not fall prey to this economic slowdown. If these units become victim of this economic slowdown, it would not only result in the loss for the farmers but also result on the retrenchment of the workers and they would n't be able to get benefits. Hence National Jute Corporation be strengthened. I have said about the Technology Mission. There is an urgent need to formulate national Jute policy. Once a policy in regard is formulated the onus of implementing this policy would be on these units and it would also encourage the jute growers besides resulting in the increase in areas of jute cultivation which is turn would provide employment opportunities for the maximum number of person.

With these words I would like to request the Government that full efforts be made to eliminate the problems being faced by jute industry. Besides, it is for the left parties to take care of if since they have become the allies of the Government at the center. The policy that we should work in the interests of the nation and get fully paid for that (Deshke hit mein karengé kam aur kam ke badle lenge purey daam), should prevail. It should not be that - our demands should be met in any circumstances (Chaha Jo majburi ho, hamari mangein puri hon). If it so happens, then the jute industry will become more sick. In the supreme interest of the national if we follow the policy that 'Rashtra hit me karengé kam aur uske badle lenge pure daam' then it will be good. I am thankful to you that you gave me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY (Mangal-doi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the submission of Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat. I would like to submit a few points.

I come from Assam. Assam produces a large quantity of jute. Jute sector has been playing a very important role in

the economy of the country. About four million families are dependent on cultivation of jute. The jute industry provides direct employment to about 2.61 lakh workers and also it supports another 1.4 lakh persons in the allied activities indirectly. So, a very vibrant Jute Policy has to be formulated by the Government of India so that all these farmers, workers and people engaged in jute industry get some support from this policy.

It is also very important that this industry earns around Rs. 900 to 1,000 crore every year by way of foreign exchange. This is not a mean achievement. This is a very big achievement. This was possible because of some export incentives in the form of DPEB and EMA but these incentives are diluted in the meantime. Therefore, our competitiveness with the neighbouring country of Bangladesh has become a great problem. Our cost of production became very high. It became costlier in terms of Bangladesh jute whereas Bangladesh is giving them all sorts of price advantage over India. So, this also has to be looked into so that we can give proper incentives. Unless these incentives are given, this industry will suffer in a big way.

Then, Sir, as you know, recently a pilot project is under way where it is considered that jute will be used for road construction. This is very important. If it is done, then the producers will be greatly benefited. This is also environment-friendly. This has to be considered in right earnest while formulating the policy.

Some sort of research institution may also be set up in Eastern part of India, West Bengal and Assam, so that the farmers and other people can understand the need for jute production, so that jute production grows and more people are engaged and they can get more employment. North-Eastern Handloom and Handicraft Corporation may also be made a nodal agency for giving training to produce jute products which can be useful for domestic as well as for export markets. This is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a free-for-all discussion. Anybody who wants to speak can speak. Or else, I will call the Minister. It is free-for-all. I presume that everybody has spoken. Now the hon. Minister can reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that at appropriate juncture you asked me to reply. I am thankful to Basu Deb Acharia who had initiated this discussion on 18th of August and also to Shri Ajay Chakraborty who did not let the discussion get complete by way of raising the question of quorum and today on 1 December we are going to conclude this discussion. A lot of water have flown in Ganges from 18 August to 1 December. It is possible that the action that was

to be taken as mentioned in the reply that day might have been taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, nearly 13 hon'ble Members have participated in discussion. I am thankful to all the politics did not surface anywhere in the discussion. Some politics came but that did not create any hurdle. Everybody expressed his concern for farmers and the labourers and everyone talked about introducing diversification in that. All emphasised that more and more jute should be used. It has been called golden fibre which is eco-friendly. I am thankful to them all. Nearly 40 lakh families are engaged in jute cultivation. 100 lakh hectare land is under the jute cultivation. Two and half lakh workers are engaged in jute industry and a total of 1 crore 4 lakh are involved in allied activities that come under the jute sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present there are 78 jute mills in the country. It will be better if I provide state wise breakup. There are 61 jute mills only in West Bengal, 3 in Bihar, 3 in Uttar Pradesh, 7 in Andhra Pradesh, one in Assam, one in Orissa, one in Tripura and one in Madhya Pradesh. Thus there are 78 mills in total. The condition of some of mills is very critical. Presently 17 mills out of the total mills are sick and are almost loss making. 7 mills are under NJMC and rest are private enterprises. As far the jute corporation of India is concerned, the Government have increased of the minimum support price every year between 2000 to 2004. The minimum support price that was Rs. 860 in 2003-2004 has been increased to Rs. 890 after an increased Rs. 30. As far as the position of procurement of jute is concerned, at present there are a total of 480 purchasing centres. Out of that the number of direct by JCI is 171, State level cooperative is 69 and village level primary societies is 250. Last year the Government had purchased nearly 11 lakhs bales. We have already purchased 3.75 lakh bales in the beginning itself. Some purchasing centers will be opened up for this in coming days.

Many hon'ble Members have talked about the National Jute Policy. A lots of home work has been done on it. After consulting all, recently the meeting of the consultative committee of the Ministry had been held on 25th. The subject of National Jute Policy was also discussed in it.

Sir, good suggestions have been given. A high power committee had also visited Calcutta. It met every section and made efforts to find out the way to formulate National Jute Policy which may be beneficial for all. We have also pondered regarding this.

Sir, you must be aware of all the actions that have been taken since 18 August till date. I do not want to repeat the reference of plastics and jute every year in the discussion. According to the decision that has been taken till now, 100 percent of the food grains and 90 per cent of the sugar should

[Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela]

be packed in jute bags. It is eco-friendly and a good item. IT is environmental friendly. I want that it should be made mandatory to pack food grains and sugar in jute bags. It will be better. It is expensive to formulate jute packaging Act and calling the meeting of Advisory Committee time and again.

Sir, the problem with the sick industry is that there is instability in supply of quality raw jute of uniform specifications. The best quality jute producing area has gone to Bengaladesh, however, our farmers cultivate properly and use good seeds. As per the research conducted in China it has been found that despite doing good cultivation less than 50 percent of the good quality jute is produced. The jute produced in our country is of very low quality. So the farmers do not get remunerative prices of their produce. Therefore, the effort of the Government and the jute growers is that good quality jute should be produced. High labour cost is also one of the reasons. The second reason is the demand erosion due to competition from synthetics and third reason is uneconomical management practices.

Sir, many years back people in rural areas used to tie their cows and buffaloes in ropes that were made up of jute. Now they use synthetic ropes. The ropes used to lift water from the well were made up of jute but now it has been replaced by the synthetic ropes. Cots used for sleeping were also woven with jute ropes. Some of them were also woven with coconut ropes but now plastics is used for all these purposes. The synthetic revolution has replaced the jute, however, there are several other reasons also. The Government is providing assistance whatever it can. The Government want that food grains and sugar should be packed exclusively in jute bags. The plastic should not replace jute substantially.

Today, the machinery used in jute industry have become outdated. The mill owners in Gujarat and Mumbai have earned huge profit but labourers employed in it have become sick and the fund that was to be utilised for the modernisation of these mills has not been invested. Uneconomical management has been practised. There should have been better management but we could not do it. The Government have worked for 'TUFS' scheme and also for the modernisation of jute industries under JMDC.

[English]

The scheme for modernisation of jute industry was launched on July 8, 2002. The modernisation is in the pattern of TUFS, where the interest subsidy is given at five per cent of the interest burden. Also, a capital subsidy of fifteen per cent of the cost of machinery and equipment is allowed. Thus the total subsidy comes to 20 per cent.

[Translation]

Sir, there is provision of 20 percent subsidy in EMA which was implemented in 1989-90. It is 14-15 years old matter. The Government desire that it should continue upto 2007 as has been suggested. The rest of the amount will also be given time to time. Besides this the Government have also formulated projects for NCJD and promotion of diversification of jute production in the small and medium sectors. There are certain incentives in it also about which I will give details in coming days.

I will not take your much time, however, after taking over the charge of the Ministry we have reconvened standing advisory committee and despite the order of the Calcutta High Court, with the cooperation of all we have implemented the 90 percent and 100 percent norms for packing in jute bags in public sector organisation after calling a meeting on 9th of August ...*(Interruptions)*

There is no calculation of 10 percent in it. It is meaningless clause that there should be 90 percent jute and 10 percent plastics, so it is better if it is 100 percent. We will do whatever formalities are required to be done in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : The Jute Packaging Materials Act is valid for a particular period, say up to 2005. It should continue.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : It is all right. if it is reserved, it will not be required to discuss again and again and if it is cleared, the standing Advisory Committee would also not be required. Besides, 45 MPs were called at Shri Pranab Babu's office to consult as to what to be done in this regard in the coming days, MPs from all the parties were invited to consult at Shri Pranab Babu's West Bengal office ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : It was done leaving out one party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : The Textile Ministry persuaded the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution to defer the implementation of the stringent BIS standards and facilitated to notify new standards to the satisfaction of all concerned.

[Translation]

Huge stock of old goods was lying with the businessmen they had sought permission till September end, until new BIS Standards are developed so that they could clear their stock. The Government accepted their request.

The UPA Government enhanced the Minimum support price of raw jute for TD-5. We do not get the quality of TD-5 that is required for X-asam but its minimum support price has been determined 890 rupees. It is really a matter of concern, since we do not get required quality, minimum support price has less important. As such, question does not arise to provide minimum support price.

[English]

Effort is being made to revive certain closed mills of NJMC. A High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) was constituted to make recommendations for revival of some of the mills of NJMC.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Why for some mills? It should be for all the mills....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : It depends on the use. We have assessed the situation of two mills, Nickson and Kharda.

[English]

The High Powered Committee held its meeting and visited some of the mills on 8.11.2004. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under examination of the Ministry. In due course, we will go ahead in this regard.

A Draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to various Ministries to square off the balance sheet of the JCI by writing off the outstanding loans tendered by the Government of India to JCI, along with interest and penal interest, against the receivables by JCI from the Government of India. The Ministry of Finance has agreed with the proposal of the Ministry of Textiles. The final Cabinet Note will be sent to the Cabinet Secretariat shortly.

[Translation]

There is a lot of action involved in it. We have tried to help them many times along with MPs and Labour unions. I myself had visited Kolkata during Durga Puja and I inaugurated Puja in a jute Pandal. It is used on large scale there and I believe. Durga is pleased with jute and the Government also. That is why coming days are expected to be good for jute diversification, production, jute prices, jute, farms and labours. Whatever action is required in this matter, we will do that whole heartedly not only this much.

[English]

the Ministry of Textiles had held extensive discussions with various stakeholders pertaining to jute sector in Kolkata in the second week of October, 2004.

Shri Basu Deb Achariaji, the Planning Commission has given in principle approval to the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) with an outlay of Rs. 458.34 crore-approximately Rs. 460 crore. The Ministry of Textiles is the nodal Ministry for implementation of JTM and now it is drafting the EFC memo for final approval of the JTM by the CCEA.

[Translation]

The Planning Commission has approved Jute Technology Mission of Rs. 460 crore. There's only a little formality remaining that too will be done.

[English]

The Ministry of Textiles held two days' conference for formulation of Comprehensive National Jute Policy on 19-20 November, 2004 at Kolkata

[Translation]

In Consultation with N.G.Os other Government Institutions, West Bengal Government, we are going to formulate this policy in the coming days.

[English]

The Ministry of Textiles has approved two special schemes for development of jute in the North-Eastern sector. The first scheme pertains to strengthening the North-Eastern Regional Centre of Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) at Guwahati with an outlay of Rs. 5.90 crore over a period of five years. During the current financial year, so far Rs. 92 lakh have been released to IJIRA, IJIRA has taken possession of land and is in the process of constructing the infrastructural facilities at the Regional Centre. The other scheme pertains to the North-Eastern component of the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD). So far an amount of Rs. 53 lakh has been released under this scheme.

[Translation]

Moreover, we are making efforts for its diversification, it is going to be in high demand in the coming days. Today suitcases and jewellery made up of Jute is available for Rs. 25-50 that can be thrown away after using for two-four days. Shoes and ladies purses are made up of jute. A lot of diversification is taking place and I believe there is a lot of scope in coming days. In addition, 460 crore Rupees will be granted for Technology Mission. Government of India is also concerned about it and consider it as a employment generation industry. Common Minimum Programme is there, UPA Government is there, Whatever is required in this regard. Keeping in view the suggestions given by all the members. Whatever is required in this regard hence the Government will implement. There is nothing to worry about finance. The Government are going to conduct experiment

[Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela]

on two mills in the coming days by investing 2 crore rupees. If it is required, we will consult you and take further steps in this direction....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Which of the two mills are to be experimented by spending Rs. 25 crore?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : Just now I told him that there two mills are, Nikisen and Kharda.

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL (Mehsana) : Out of the two mills that you are going to revive, which is textile mill, that is, Ar..., cotton or polyster? Would these mills be revived by the new technology or by old machines? What does he has to say about it?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : The topic is completely and strictly related to jute. In kolkata of West Bengal, there are six Government owned mills, there is one more mill. Thus in total there are seven mills. Out of these six mills we will experiment on two mills Kharda in consultation with the experienced people and if required, we will spend 20-25 crore rupees on it, getting the machinery repaired revive these mills, and put its all responsibility on the employees. This issue concerns jute only.

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL : Today many cotton mills are lying closed, what are the Government thinking about it?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : Cotton subject is not included in it. When the subject of cotton will be discussed. I will tell definitely and bring it to his notice.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to seek one clarification.

What do you want to do in this?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : The machines are so outdated there that are of no use; if it has to be revived, then the salary of employees ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why has he identified two mills?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : This is just a take experiment, if we are successful in these, then we will revive remaining six mills also but let these two mills be taken up...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : I want to know whether you are interested to see that all the six mills are revived phase by phase, as you have committed in your National Common Minimum Programme. Please say about it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA : We get success in these two mills, the same pattern would be applied to four mills also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, there will be no further questions.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 2nd December, 2004, at 11.00 a.m.

16.55 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 2, 2004/Agrahayana 11, 1926 (Saka)

ANNEXURE-I

Memberwise Index to Starred List of Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	16
2.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	20
3.	Shri Appadurai, M.	1
4.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	11
5.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	19
6.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	6
7.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	5
8.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	18
9.	Shri Churchill, Alemao	2
10.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	7
11.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	9
12.	Shri Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd) B.C.	14
13.	Shrimati Madhavraj, Manorama	15
14.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	13
15.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	10
16.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	4
17.	Shri Oram, Jual	17
18.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	12
19.	Shri Rao, K.S.	13
20.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	4
21.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	19
22.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	14
23.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	6
24.	Shrimati Sen, Minati	18
25.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	5
26.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	3
27.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	9
28.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	8

1	2	3
29.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	7
30.	Shri Yadav, Bhal Chandra	1
31.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	12
32.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	3

Memberwise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	137
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	87, 155, 181, 187, 214, 105, 159
3.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	105, 159
4.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	37, 109, 162, 91
5.	Shri Baitha, Kallash	4, 166, 169
6.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	95, 97, 154, 186
7.	Shri Barman, Hiten	21
8.	Shri Barman, Ranen	9
9.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	9, 210
10.	Shri Bellarmin A.V.	27
11.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	73
12.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	41, 111, 164
13.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	83, 132
14.	Shri Bose, Subrata	9
15.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	37, 38, 77, 139
16.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	51
17.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	58, 127, 171
18.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	35
19.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	70, 135
20.	Shri Chowdhary, Adhir	74, 124, 181, 218
21.	Shri Churchill, Alemao	217
22.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	58, 126, 170, 181
23.	Shri Deora, Milind	47, 181,
24.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	26,
25.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	181

1	2	3
26.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	69, 134
27.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	68, 201, 204
28.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	62,
29.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	100,
30.	Shri Hegde, Anantkumar	181,
31.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	55, 75, 138, 176
32.	Shrimati Jayaprada	35
33.	Shri Jena, Mohan	16
34.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	50, 118, 166 181
35.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	82,
36.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	25, 91, 181
37.	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	49, 117, 159, 165,
38.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	76,
39.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	54, 121
40.	Shri Khan, Sunil	15, 90
41.	Shri Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.	99,
42.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	18,
43.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	40, 159,
44.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	14, 89, 159 (c), 169, 193,
45.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	22, 122, 123
46.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	56, 124, 181
47.	Shri Kumar, Nitish	222,
48.	Shri Kumar, Shailendra	38,
49.	Shri Kumar, Virendra	66,
50.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	29, 106, 160, 190
51.	Dr. Kusmaria, Ramkrishna	30, 107
52.	Shrimati Madhavraj, Manorama	219
53.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	37, 39, 148
54.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	37, 216
55.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	83, 146, 180,

1	2	3
56.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	96, 153, 185,
57.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	197
58.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	17, 114, 206, 230
59.	Shri Mallikarjuniah, S.	45,
60.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	3, 122, 168, 207
61.	Shri Mehta, Bhubaneshwar Prasad	175
62.	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	31
63.	Shri Mohan, P.	1, 84, 147,
64.	Mohd., Mukeem	48, 116
65.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	11, 88, 158
66.	Shri Munshi Ram	62, 71, 136, 174, 196
67.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	52, 119
68.	Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	126, 170, 171 181
69.	Shrimati Narhire, Kalpana Ramesh	12, 103, 157, 202
70.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	19, 114, 142, 181, 222
71.	Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	43
72.	Shri Oram, Jual	101, 156, 163, 188
73.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	181, 211, 225
74.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	46, 115
75.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	23, 158, 204, 220, 228
76.	Shri Paswan, Ram Chandra	193
77.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	59, 128, 158, 172, 194
78.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	6, 95,
79.	Shri Patil, Prakash Bapu V.	51,
80.	Shri Patil, Shriniwas Dadasaheb	7, 112, 120
81.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	63, 131, 229
82.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	90, 98
83.	Shri Prasad, Lalmani	16

1	2	3
84.	Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	32, 93, 108, 161
85.	Shri Rajender Kumar	28, 102
86.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	39,
87.	Shri Rao, K.S.	83, 146, 180,
88.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	93, 149, 182, 197,
89.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	61, 130, 200,
90.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	104, 158, 159
91.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	110, 163, 205,
92.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	55, 81, 145
93.	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	169, 181
94.	Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	2, 42, 85,
95.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	113,
96.	Shri Rijiju, Khiren	224,
97.	Shri Sahu, Chandra Sekhar	24,
98.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	94, 150, 183, 198
99.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	65,
100.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	72, 175
101.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	78, 140, 159, 177
102.	Shri Seth, Lakshman	55,
103.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	57, 125, 181
104.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	8, 86, 151, 184
105.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	212
106.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	181, 214, 223,

1	2	3
107.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	181, 229
108.	Shrimati Shukla, Karuna	13,
109.	Shri Sidhu, Novjot Singh	79, 179,
110.	Shri Singh, Chander Bhushan	95, 152,
111.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	5, 141, 178, 181
112.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	158, 159, 193
113.	Shri Singh, Mohan	126, 181
114.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	67, 133, 169, 203, 227
115.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	53, 167, 192
116.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	60, 129, 173, 181, 195,
117.	Shri Singh, Suraj	34,
118.	Shri Singh, Uday	64, 158, 193,
119.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	44,
120.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	80, 144
121.	Shri Subba, M.K.	209,
122.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	44, 222
123.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	36,
124.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	72, 175,
125.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	20, 181, 226,
126.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	98,
127.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	92, 181
128.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	161, 213
129.	Shri Yadav, Ramakant	193
130.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	75, 215
131.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	208,
132.	Shri Zahedi, Mahboob	33,

ANNEXURE - II

Ministry wise- Index to Starred List of Questions

Prime Minister	:	
Atomic Energy	:	
Agro and Rural Industries	:	
Coal and Mines	:	
Communications and Information Technology	:	5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 20
External Affairs	:	6, 13
Health and Family Welfare	:	1, 9, 10, 18, 19
Ocean Development	:	
Overseas Indian Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	12
Planning	:	4
Science and Technology	:	2
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	:	11, 14, 16
Small Scale Industries	:	3
Space	:	
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Prime Minister	:	
Agro and Rural Industries	:	11, 28, 54, 110, 113, 115, 192, 196
Atomic Energy	:	10
Coal and Mines	:	34, 44, 60, 99, 114, 129, 142, 156, 182,
Communications and Information Technology	:	1, 2, 9, 13, 17, 19, 22, 35, 38, 39, 41, 43, 48, 52, 53, 56, 67, 68, 72, 75, 77, 78, 84, 85, 86, 87, 98, 100, 103, 112, 116, 120, 121, 137, 139, 140, 141, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 152, 164, 173, 175, 176, 178, 186, 188, 191, 199, 202, 205, 210, 216, 226
External Affairs	:	29, 32, 37, 47, 55, 63, 79, 81, 88, 109, 117, 124, 126, 158, 159, 170, 172, 181, 197
Health and Family Welfare	:	8, 18, 20, 25, 26, 30, 33, 42, 57, 58, 62, 66, 69, 76, 80, 91, 92, 93, 101, 102, 104, 106, 107, 108, 119, 125, 138, 151, 154, 157, 160, 161, 167, 168, 169, 174, 177, 180, 190, 194, 195, 201, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 211, 212, 213, 218, 219, 220, 223, 224, 225, 228, 229, 230
Ocean Development	:	
Overseas Indian Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	4, 6, 14, 16, 24, 50, 51, 59, 64, 89, 118, 128, 134, 145, 153, 166, 184, 185, 193, 203, 227
Planning	:	31, 61, 94, 130, 162, 183, 200, 215, 221, 222
Science and Technology	:	23, 49, 82, 131
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	:	3, 5, 7, 12, 15, 21, 27, 36, 40, 45, 65, 71, 73, 83, 90, 95, 105, 111, 122, 123, 127, 132, 135, 149, 150, 165, 171, 179, 214, 217
Small Scale Industries	:	46, 74, 97, 136, 187, 189
Space	:	70, 96, 133
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	155, 163

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