

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 30, 2008/Vaisakha 10, 1930
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shri Anantrao Patil and Prof. Sudhir Kumar Giri.

Shri Anantrao Patil was a member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1977, representing Khed Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shri Patil was a Member of the House Committee in the year 1969 during the Fourth Lok Sabha. During the Fifth Lok Sabha he was a Member of the Committee on Petitions from 1971 to 1974 and a Member of the Estimates Committee from 1973 to 1975.

A journalist by profession, Shri Patil was the Editor of 'Vishal Sahyadri', a leading Marathi daily from Pune. He was Secretary of the Maharashtra Working Journalists Association, the Trustee and Secretary of the Vishal Sahyadri Trust and the President of the Marathi Patrakar Parishad.

A committed social and political worker, Shri Patil was the President of the Marathwada Students Union and was the Working President of the Janata Shikshan Sanstha. Shri Patil worked for the uplift of poor and marginalized sections of the society and for the welfare of the students.

A man of letters, Shri Patil has to his credit several books in English and Marathi.

Shri Anantrao Patil passed away on 16 April, 2008 at Pune, Maharashtra at the age of 87.

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Giri was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1984 and the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1989 to 1999 representing the Contai Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal.

Prof. Giri also served as a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1989.

An able parliamentarian, Prof. Giri was a Member of the Committee on Petitions from 1980 to 1983 and a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance from 1980 to 1984 during the Seventh Lok Sabha. During the Ninth Lok Sabha he was a Member of the Committee on Petitions and a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries from 1990 to 1991. During the Twelfth Lok Sabha, Prof. Giri was a Member of the Committee on Home Affairs and its Sub-Committee on Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme; a Member of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions and a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance from 1998 to 1999.

An educationist, Prof. Giri was a professor at P.K. College Contai from 1969 to 1989. He was the President, Governing Body of the Egra S.S.B College and Bajkul Milani Mahavidyalaya, Medinipur.

A well-known social and political worker Prof. Giri strove for bringing parity in the socio-economic and political status of the people and worked for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society.

Prof. Giri passed away on 21 April, 2008 at Kolkata, West Bengal at the age of 75.

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

le as a mark of respect to the memory of the
orted.

1.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One by one I will hear.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a Question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sumitraji, I have received your notice. The matter is important; I am not denying it. May I earnestly request you to do it after the Question Hour? I will call you first after the Question Hour.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Okay, Sir.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate; I am not denying anybody an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a question on Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: These who will speak now will not be called. Whether you get angry or you do not I will not call you. You should give notice.

[English]

Those who will not cooperate with the Chair will not get any opportunity, including Mr. Athawaie.

I am thankful. I am extremely thankful to all of you.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

International Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change

+

*521. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report released recently by the "International Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change" in India;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) the manner in which it is different from the findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Government is aware of a Report published by a London-based Coalition of 41 Non-governmental/Civil Society organizations under the caption "Civil Society Report on Climate Change", containing results of some studies commissioned by the Coalition. The Report makes, *inter-alia*, an assessment of the likely climate change impacts on weather related events, health, agriculture and related sectors and also suggests adaptation measures. The Report concludes that adverse impacts of global warming on agriculture

and commercial forestry production can be addressed through market forces. The Report also notes that mortality rates due to extreme weather events shall not increase and spread of vector borne diseases can be managed with increase of the collective adaptive capacity of the human society. While the Report acknowledges the phenomenon of global warming, it does not treat Climate Change as such a serious threat as is being projected.

This Report is an independent contribution of the 'Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change'. In formulating its policies and programmes, the Government, takes into account all relevant information available on the subject.

On the other hand, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report is based on assessment of scientific peer-reviewed literature published worldwide on three aspects of Climate Change: Physical Science basis; Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation; and Mitigation. The IPCC Report contains an assessment of observed changes in the climate as well as the future projections based on various developmental scenarios at global/regional level. The IPCC Report has concluded that warming of climate system is unequivocal. The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC was adopted in 2007 by all Member of IPCC, including India.

(e) India follows a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes which also mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Besides, India spends over 2 per cent of the gross domestic product in development measures which, in addition, will help adaptation to climate variability and change. The PM Council on Climate Change was established in June, 2007 to address Climate Change related issues. The Council has decided that a National Document be prepared on measures to address Climate Change concerns. The Government has also set up an Expert Committee to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identify the measures that may be needed in future.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is universal consensus that global warming, climate change, is taking place over the last century and is directly attributable to human activities. The impacts of global warming include rise in average sea level and ocean heat content, decrease in snow cover and ice glaciers as well as extreme weather conditions, including long dry spells and unpredictable, heavy rainfall. These changes result in drop in agricultural yield, increase possibility of floods and droughts, adverse effect on human health and loss of bio-diversity. The number of people affected by these disasters has increased over a period from 174 million a year between 1985 and 1994 to 254 million a year between 1995 and 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, put your question.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: The answer placed before the House indicates that a conflicting view was taken by the Civil Society and the IPCC Report adopted by the Member-Governments, including India. One of the recommendations given by the IPCC is to cut in the Greenhouse gases. The Civil Society Report says, taking that measure will affect the development, particularly, the developing countries like India. My question to the Government is this. What corrective measures have been taken while adopting IPCC Report and cutting the Greenhouse gases which will not effect the development of economic growth?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. Science has proved that human beings are responsible for increase of Greenhouse gases. But what is being debated is the magnitude, timing and location, where these changes are likely to occur. Climate change is a global issue. The impacts of the climate change are going to take place in decades. So far as India's stand is concerned, we are a party to the UNFCCC and their Charter of protocol, and we are taking all the measures based on whatever decisions are taken at the meetings held under the auspices of UNFCCC. We are constructively engaged in these negotiations and we are taking a host of measures in the field of mitigation and adaptation.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to have a discussion next week on climate change. Yes, put your second supplementary.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Sir, the Indian glaciers are melting. The IPCC Report of 2007 warns that steps are to be taken to check this. Otherwise, there is likelihood of water shortage in rivers and flooding in coastal areas. The impact of this is that an expected 75 million people from low-lying Bangladesh and about 50 million from India's densely populated coastal areas will migrate to the interior towns and cities. We already have shortage of urban resources, and this will impact adversely if these people migrate to the cities. The Government alone cannot contain this problem. The Government should also include the stakeholders like the industry.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving your suggestions but we want your question.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : My question is this. What steps the Government is taking, not only in taking the steps from the Government side but also including the stakeholders, involving them into this to contain this problem?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The PM Council on Climate Change is taking all precautions and overseeing the climate related issues in the country. The Government has also set up an Expert Committee to go into all the details of the impacts which are going to take place on India's water, glaciers, food, eco system and everything. Studies are being conducted, and we are expecting the first report of the Expert Committee in the next few months.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad— not present.

I will only allow two more supplementaries on this particular Question as we are going to have a full-fledged discussion on this issue next week.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: I would like to ask this, through you, from the Minister. In his reply, he has

mentioned that the Government spends over two per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in development measures, which, in addition, will help adaptation to climate variability and change.

I want to specifically ask a Question from him. There is a mention that 40 Civil Societies belonging to big countries are putting pressure, especially, on India to sign the binding emission targets. Is it true? Is there any pressure from the Civil Societies of rich countries on India to sign the binding emission targets?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: As I have already said, India is a party to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Under the UNFCCC, the developing countries have no binding commitments, and the developed countries only have binding commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. As far as India is concerned, our contribution to the Green-house gases is only 4 per cent whereas our *per capita* emission is one tonne. On the other hand, the average *per capita* emission of the world is 4.2 per cent and that of the developed countries is 10 per cent. Therefore, there is no reason of India taking commitments.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the un-seasonal rain that is creating havoc this summer in Kerala and many other States due to climate change? This has caused heavy loss to the peasantry and people as it has destroyed crops all over. Has the Government got any proposal to face this situation considering this problem? Is the Government going to provide relief to the victims of heavy rainfall?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a different matter. The query on relief is a different issue. Can you stop rain?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, it is not in my control to stop rain. As regards relief, assistance is being given by different Ministries of the Government where crops are damaged by heavy rainfall or if there is a drought.

[Translation]

SHRI CHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government, in a way, have rejected the report of the International Civil Society Coalition on Climate Change and has said that the report of the IPCC is scientific. In a way he has tried to say that those Non-Governmental Organizations which are committed give their report after being extensive scientific study. Today the situation is very dreadful. I hail from Ladakh. Hundred per cent people there are fully dependent on glacier melt water for irrigation. If the present situation persists, then probably in coming two decades the entire population of that area will have to migrate to some other place. Such report irrespective of its source should be taken seriously and necessary action taken in this regard. This point is worth accepting that the hon'ble Prime Minister has constituted a Committee. However, no action is visible on the ground. I would like to know whether the Government will take it seriously and take action thereupon? If so, what action the Government is likely to take?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Hon'ble Member has raised the question regarding the release of report of the civil society, in that regard, I would like to submit that the scientific community will look into the report in the public domain as to what is there and what is not there? Whenever the Government formulates its policy, it consults all type of literature related to the issue. As far as the new subject is concerned, the report of the IPCC is not specific anywhere. Our Government have prepared first initial communication and we are preparing the second communication as to what will be its impact in every field. The study is being conducted and the Government is very serious. He can imagine from this fact that a Committee has been constituted at the Prime Minister's level which is addressing the issue related to climatic change at all levels. The study is being conducted in this regard. The Government are taking every precautions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why we wanted to discuss

this issue in the House also. However, when Dr. Pachauri was requested to deliver a lecture, unfortunately hardly any Member was present. Members have to take more interest.

[Translation]

**Availability of Life-Saving Equipment in
Central Government Hospitals**

+

*522. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether life-saving equipment are available as per requirement in the Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details of the equipment available in each of such hospitals;

(c) the details of the equipment which have become non-functional or obsolete, hospital-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of such equipment in these hospitals?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (d) Life saving equipment are available in Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (Dr. R.M.L.) Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and Associated Hospitals, Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital and Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry.

The number of life-saving equipments available in the Central Government Hospitals is as under:

Name of Hospitals	No. of Life-saving equipments	
	Functional	Non-Functional
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	559	5
Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	123	4
LHMC and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi	34	Nil
Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi	169	8
JIPMER, Puducherry	43	4

The strengthening of the hospitals is a continuous dynamic process. The latest life-saving equipments are procured as per need of the user department and within the available resources. Action is being taken to repair

the equipments which are non-functional under Annual Maintenance Contract. Separate funds are earmarked for the procurement of machinery and equipment of these hospitals.

The funds provided during the last four years for purchase of machinery and equipment to Central Government Hospitals are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Hospital	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	22.90	20.90	12.99	1.60
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi	7.75	21.25	11.00	2.34
LHMC and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi	4.50	5.50	6.00	1.60
Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, New Delhi	1.10	1.10	1.20	0.40

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Sir, though it appears that there is no problem however, patients are asked to come after four or five days. I would like to know the reasons why some equipments are non-functional. I would like to know the reasons why some equipments are non-functional. How many more such machines are functional? In reply to the question, it is stated that five machines are non-functional at one hospital while four are non-functional at the other. However, I would like to know the number of such machines which are functional capable of carrying out investigation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The number of non-working machines is mentioned in the answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in the answer the working and non-working machines are already mentioned. This is a continuous process as well. Earlier we used to have a concept called the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC). Now we have substantially revised terms called the Comprehensive Maintenance Contract where if there is a problem in the spares they will also be replaced. For the last three years we have

been changing the policy on that. I would like to assure the House that it is a constant process and procedure. These machines have been upgraded as and when required. Currently we do not have any problem of equipment in any of the Central Government hospitals.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: I had asked, suppose there are two X-ray machines, which are non-functional, how many such machines are functional?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know how many X-ray machines are functional.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have already mentioned it in the answer. The numbers of functional and non-functional machines have all been mentioned in the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dharendra Agarwal—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the People from all over the country come to AIIMS, but it takes very long time for carrying out their diagnostic tests. If the patient's medical check up is not done for six months then how will he under go surgery? I would like to know as to what remedial measures will be taken by the Government to improve the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you asked about equipments?

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: No Sir, the patients have to wait and stay for their medical check up.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The problem in AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital or other hospitals under the Central Government today is that we have a huge patient load with patients coming from different parts of the country as well. AIIMS is a specialty hospital where even general cases are treated and no

patient is turned away. In AIIMS, approximately 80,000 OP patients come every day. Therefore, it happens sometimes that priority is given to emergency cases. Sometimes there are waitlists but then priority is given to any emergency case which needs immediate attention.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: In the answer given by the Minister, he has not mentioned as to what is meant by 'life-saving equipment'. Only then, we can consider the number. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister has recognized certain basic equipment as 'life-saving equipment'. Would the Ministry make them available in every Primary Health Centre? Is there a plan in the National Rural Health Mission to include providing basic life-saving equipment to the Primary Health Centres in the country? What are the basic life-saving equipments considered by the Ministry?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: A good question has asked by the hon. Member, who himself is a doctor. He also knows that what is the terminology of 'life-saving equipment'. Every medicine is life-saving. Even paracetamol is a life-saving medicine in any context. Equipment itself can be life-saving, in low end or high end, depending on the situation. But then there are some average equipments which are provided in the existing facilities, like in a Primary Health Centre we cannot provide high-end equipment because there is no personnel to monitor or activate that. In PHCs, we have MBBS doctors and they cannot manage high-end life-saving equipment.

Under the National Rural Health Mission, we have a plan and it has been enacted, and is in progress. About the equipment, whether it is a life-saving or the minimal equipment in each Primary Health Centres, in community health centres and in all the district headquarters hospitals. We are focusing on the community health centres, or block level hospitals where only specialists are available, they have to follow the Indian Public Health Standards where they have to have four specialists, namely gynecologist, physiologist, surgeon, paediatrician and anesthetists. For these levels, we are giving a minimum of Rs. 20 lakh for each CHCs. In some PHCs, they are giving even a sum of

Rs. 2 crore also so that all their requirements are taken into consideration and progressively each State Government, at the beginning of the financial year, they give their programme implementation plan stating as to what priority they want, as to which new centres are to be upgraded, as to which equipment they want. All that is listed and then we give, according to their requirements.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that life saving equipments are made available in Government hospitals especially 3-4 hospitals in Delhi that are mentioned by you by the Government. Hospitals demand many latest equipments, however, it has come to my knowledge that many such equipments are lying idle and are not put to use. I would like to know whether any investigation has been made in this regard.

Besides, the paediatrics department of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital provides treatment at a very cheap rate in comparison to private hospitals and they have saved the life of many such genuine child. However, as far my knowledge is concerned the hospital has six bed ICU of Paediatrics department. I would like to know whether they have made any demand and whether the Government propose to upgrade the said ICU.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not quite related but an important question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We give definitely all the equipment that RML and Safdarjung Hospitals want. I would definitely take into consideration the hon. Member's request and if its required, we would definitely take it up.

MR. SPEAKER: Good.

I should ask the patients or the doctors, I do not know!

Dr. P.P. Koya.

DR. P.P. KOYA: This is our health problem.

The purview of the question, whoever put it, is very wide—Equipment in the Government hospitals. The word 'hospitals' is also a very wide term. It consists of primary care, secondary care, tertiary care, etc. The equipment also starts from BPFSS, Laryngoscope, Rubber Tube, and upto the CT scan and other sophisticated surgical equipment. So, what I would like to know from the Minister is this. Is there a system or a body which would periodically check all these instruments and report back to the Government either to condemn or repair them and the body should have the power to replace it also?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Each hospital has an in-house Committee. They have different committees for academic, finance and so on to go into that. They review it periodically. Under the directorate of DGHS, Director General of Health Service, there is also a Committee which goes into all these issues of equipment and whether any patient's death is there, verbal autopsy, patients' safety all that is taken into consideration. Committees are there to monitor this.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Krishnan, are you a medical doctor? Please put a very specific and brief question.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Yes, Sir. Sir, the main question is about the life saving equipment in Government hospitals. Sir, because of lack of life saving equipment in Tamil Nadu the prophylactic dose of measles became lethal for four children in Tamil Nadu. The vaccine should have been stored as per the norms to keep it viable and not become poisonous as it happened in Tamil Nadu leading to the death of four young children immediately after the prophylactic dose of injection. If electricity was the reason, as the vaccine could not be kept in cool conditions, then the whole set of that vaccine would have lost its ability. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have discussed this very tragic issue. Please put your question.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Four children have died in Thiruvallur district and one more child has died in Tirunelveli district. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: This is not the way to put supplementary. I am sorry, I would not allow it. This is the misuse of Question Hour.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: The vaccination was procured from a private company and that too at a low cost tender. Is the company a versatile one with enough experience in producing vaccine?

MR. SPEAKER: You please invite him and have a discussion with him.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I can give answer.

MR. SPEAKER: That is your problem. You are willing to answer every question.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Does the company have all the required infrastructure facilities for manufacturing such vaccines?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. I would not allow it. I have made a mistake by allowing you.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Has the company procured such spurious vaccine at low cost tender? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he cannot make me sit down. He is not the Speaker.

How much stock of such spurious vaccine remains for use and will they be given permission to use further in future?

MR. SPEAKER: I hope you have understood the question! It is enough. The Minister has understood and he is ready to answer.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: Sir, were these vaccines tested and subjected to quality control before supplying these for the public use?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Let us have a brief answer to this.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: The reply should also be long.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not that lengthy.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, about two weeks ago the incident was brought to our notice about the unfortunate death of four children who were given measles vaccine in Thiruvallur District. This was a very unfortunate incident. Immediately we had sent a high level team—from the Director-General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, Drug Controller General of India's Office as well as the National Institute of Communicable Diseases and the National Institute of Virology, Pune—from the Centre. A five-member committee went to Tamil Nadu. They have extensively gone into the cause of the unfortunate death of these children. They are yet to submit a report to us.

The causes could be different. It could be the quality of the vaccine; the way the vaccination was given, the storage procedures or the unsafe injection practices. All these could lead to that. Sir, the hon. Member has said that these vaccines had been procured from a private firm and were procured at a low cost tender. It is a Government manufacturing unit, the Indian Biological Immunological Unit...*(Interruptions)* under the Agriculture Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This has been discussed in the House.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: They go through various stringent procedures before giving permission. They are under the GMP, Goods Manufacturing Practices. They are qualified to supply these things. It will take another couple of weeks for us to get a proper and comprehensive report about the incident. After that, we will definitely take severe action against who is responsible and would know what are the reasons for these unfortunate deaths.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, last supplementary is for a non-doctor and we have to decide what is the real illness. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Of course, I am not a doctor.

[*Translation*]

Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that the Government are providing facilities and funds to States as well.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have become the Chief Whip of your Party. You have to put a brief and specific question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am asking in brief.

MR. SPEAKER: I am pleased. It should be a little sober as well, I hope.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the reason of increase in the number of patients in various hospitals in Delhi is that patients are coming here for treatment from various States of the country because there is lack of resources in their respective States, life saving medicines and medical equipments are not available there due to which people come here. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will pay attention to those States where medical equipments are not available, so that the number of patients on hospitals in Delhi can be reduced and treatment provided in the States. There are many important hospitals in the States like Bihar where there is lack of medical equipments.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about the Central Government hospitals.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is on account of this that the patients come to Delhi in large numbers for their treatment and maximum patients are from Bihar. There are expert doctors, however, in the absence of necessary equipments they have to face difficulties. I would like to know whether the Government will pay special attention to such States. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: AIIMS is being set up in Patna.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Presently, only boundary walls have been constructed. The building

construction work has not yet been started. The hospital was set to be constructed by the year 2009.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you please sit down.

[*English*]

Please, no detailed reply.

DR. ANUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, under the National Rural Health Mission, we are empowering the States with a lot of infrastructure, equipment, manpower, etc. In fact, yesterday, during the discussion which we had on JIPMER, Puducherry Bill, I assured my hon. friends and colleagues that my focuses and priorities will be on Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. These States are in the lowest rung of the health industry. I will be visiting Bihar soon for having discussions with the Chief Minister personally to have more infrastructure. I would again say that under the National Rural Health Mission in Bihar, there have been a lot of positives happening. Before NRHM, the patient load in the public sector on an average was 40 which today has increased to 4000. The position of medicine availability has also improved.

Then again another issue which has been plaguing this House and a lot of Members have been asking questions about it is the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and the six new AIIMS-like institutes which was, in fact, conceptualized by the previous Government and we are taking it up. In fact, yesterday in my reply, I said that we are definitely doing that. There has been some delay. I regret for the delay. I accept there is a delay.

Taking into consideration the concern of the entire House, we find definitely these States need these projects very badly, especially, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and all that. We are definitely on the process and some State projects have started and in other States within a couple of months the projects will be started. I assure my friends from Bihar that definitely we will be taking it up as a priority.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got a good reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 523—Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu—Not present.

Q. 524—Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao—Not present.

Shri Mitrasen Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that there is some question in your name?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am happy, at least, there will be no supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mitrasenji, tell your question no. Do you know that there is a question in your name?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You read out question no. 524.

...(Interruptions)

**Assistance from WHO/Other
International Agencies**

+

*524. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any

health programme with the assistance of WHO/other international organizations/agencies during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated by each of these agencies including WHO and spent therefrom, programme-wise; and

(d) the achievements made as a result thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes which include Routine immunization, various Disease Control Programmes, various family welfare programmes, AIDS control programmes, pulse polio immunization programme, IEC for Non RCH (Reproductive and Child Health) and RCH combined and adolescent health, training, Area projects including Sector Investment Programme (SIP), RCH flexi pool for State PIPs, procurement of supplies and materials, etc. and Central Sector Schemes which include Public Private Partnership (PPP) etc. with the external assistance from World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank, UNFPA, USAID, German Assistance (KFW), Japanese Assistance (JICA), DFID (UK), DANIDA, GFATM, European Commission (EC) etc. The approved outlay for Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes for the annual plans 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 with the External Assistance (EAP) component are indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	DBS	EAP	Total
1	2	3	4
2005-06	4157.07	2266.93	6424.00

1	2	3	4
2006-07	6495.90	1481.10	7977.00
2007-08	9239.99	1650.01	10890.00

(c) The details of assistance provided for various health programmes by different external funding agencies are as under:

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- World Health Organisation does not directly assist the health programmes of the Central/ State Governments. WHO provides only technical and financial support for various technical activities connected with the health programmes like research, workshops, meetings and dissemination of information as well as offering fellowships through the Government of India which are aimed at strengthening the infrastructure and improving the quality of public health programmes. The details of health activities being assisted by WHO for the biennium year 2004-05 and 2006-07 are Annexed.

Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Sector Investment Programme (SIP)

- The Reproductive and Child Health Programme was launched in October, 2007. The second phase has commenced from April 2005 for a period of 5 years. The Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which includes the second phase of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme.

World Bank credit to the tune of \$360 million has been extended to the Reproductive and Child Health Project. The Development Credit Agreement was signed on 16th October, 2006. DFID and UNFPA have committed for the grant of UK £ 252 million and US\$ 20 million respectively to the Reproductive and Child

Programme Phase II Project is expected to be completed by March 31, 2010.

The European Commission (EC) supported Health and Family Welfare Sector Investment Programme known as Sector Investment Programme (SIP) also is being implemented as a part of the overall RCH programme. However, the scope of the EC funding was not restricted to RCH programme activities only but extends to other activities in the Health and Family Welfare sector upto first referral level for the overall betterment of services, system and infrastructure. The details of grants received under EC-SIP by Government of India during the last three year as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Amount received	106.93	163.55	Nil

UNFPA A supported country programme 6

- UNFPA supported country programme 6 was implemented in the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Kerala for the period of 2003-05. The budget allocations and the funds released during the last three years are as under:

(in Rs.)

Year	Budget	Expenditure
2005	520,000,000.00	510,851,720.00
2006	542,160,000.00	539,200,320.00
2007	550,746,400.00	535,882,080.00

Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS)

- USAID assisted Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS) project are under implementation in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand

and Jharkhand. The funding pattern is reimbursement on the basis of approved activities. The details of funds released during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Years	States		
	Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand	Jharkhand
2005-06	20.77	—	—
2006-07	16.85	—	—
2007-08	36.12	9.00	1.11

AIDS control programmes

Assistance of GFATM, UNDP, WHO, DFID, USAID and World Bank are being taken for AIDS control

programmes in India. The details of the funds allocated by each of these agencies and spent under NACP during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Agency	Allocated	Spent
1.	GFATM	634.42	636.8
2.	USAID	91	74.2
3.	UNDP	9.96	9.29
4.	DFID*	209	208.99
5.	WHO	0.79	0.62
6.	World Bank (Loan)	793.04	776.58

* DFID support is for years 2005-06 and 2006-07 only and in 2007-08 have started pooling with World Bank.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Project

- Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) jointly funded by World Bank and Government of India was launched in November 2004 for the duration of 5 years i.e. 2004-09. IDSP is a decentralized state based surveillance project

to detect outbreaks of epidemic prone diseases in the country. Out of total budget of Rs. 408.36 crores, World Bank (loan amount) is Rs. 306.24 crores and Government of India funding is Rs. 102.12 crores.

Pulse Polio Programme

- Eradication of Pulse Polio Programme is being

implemented with the assistance of various international organizations/agencies. Assistance

provided by these agencies during the last three years is as under:

(in million US \$)

Agency	Year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
JICA	4.30	3.8	1.70
CDC	5.00	6.30	—
KFW	19.20	—	—
WBISP	65.77	40.0	—
DFID	12.00	—	—
WB IDA Credit	5.00	—	—
SIDA	—	0.15	—
KFW VIII	—	39.0	—
KFW. VI and VII	—	21.7	—
KFW IX	—	—	21.63
Total	111.27	110.95	23.33

245.55

Revised National TB Control Programme

- Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented with the assistance of World Bank, DFID, GFATM and

USAID in the entire country. The details of funds allocated by each of these agencies and spent therefrom during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Project	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
World Bank	129.80	133.67	139.97	143.88	127.60	123.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DANIDA	3.00	1.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DFID	11.00	11.00	35.00	35.00	40.00	40.00
GDF	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GFATM	20.00	19.00	25.00	40.00	80.00	80.00
USAID (through (WHO)*	2.00	2	2	2.00	2.00	1.50
GOI	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.09	17.40	17.40
Total	186.00	187.70	202.17	220.97	267.00	262.12

The funds in r/o World Bank (Credit) and GFATM (Grant) are Budget/Allocated by Government in advance and subsequently got reimbursed from these agencies based on the expenditure incurred out of the such allocation.

The funds from DANIDA, DFID, GDF and USAID are in the form of assistance.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

- The National Leprosy Eradication Programme

(NLEP) is fully funded from the Consolidated Fund of India. The International Federation of Anti Leprosy Associations (ILEP) in India provides technical supports to the states. Besides, providing technical support WHO also provides free supply of Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) to all leprosy cases in the country. During the last three years WHO support for Anti Leprosy Drugs is as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
WHO MDT Supply	599.96	584.94	880.00

Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project

- Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project is being implemented with the assistance of World

Bank. The funds allocated and expenditure made during the last three years under the project are given as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2005-06	5657.00	4126.51
2006-07	5700.00	5556.74
2007-08	3225.00	844.25

Other foreign assisted projects

The other foreign assisted projects are given below:

State	Project Name	Amount	Funding Agency
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh (MP) Health Sector Reform Programme (under process for approval)	£ 60 million	DFID
Orissa	(1) "Orissa Health Sector Plan (2006-2010)" (under process for approval)	Rs. 400.00 crores including Rs. 100.00 crores for support to nutrition	DFID
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Health Programme (under process for approval)	£40 million	DFID
Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal	National AIDS Control Programme-II (through NACO)	£ 87.74 million	DFID
Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal	National AIDS Control Programme-III (through NACO)	£ 100.00 million	DFID
West Bengal	(1) Health Sector Development Initiatives programme, West Bengal	£ 100.00 million	DFID
	(2) Basic Health Project, West Bengal	Rs. 203.25 crores	Kfw (German Development Bank)
	(3) GTZ supported Indo-German Health Programme, West Bengal	EUR 10,839,000	GTZ (German Technical Co-operation)
Uttar Pradesh including Utrakhand	Uttar Pradesh Health System Including Utrakhand Development Project (Cr. No. 3338-IN)	US\$ 127.5	World Bank
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Health System Development Project (Cr. No. 3867-IN)	US\$ 89.00	World Bank
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Health System Project (Cr. No. 4018)	US\$ 90.8	World Bank

State	Project Name	Amount	Funding Agency
Karnataka	Karnataka Health System Development and Refonns Project (Cr. No. 4229-IN)	US\$ 141.83	World Bank
Karnataka	Karnataka-KfW assisted secondary Level health Care Project	Euro 13.804 (Phase I) Euro 14.3 (Ph-II)	German Assistance (KfW)
West Bengal	NICED, Kolkata-JICA assisted Project for Prevention and Control of Emerging Diarrhoeal Diseases	Rs. 11.2 Crores (Phase-I) Rs. 90 Crores (Phase-II)	Japan Cooperation
Orissa	Orissa—Improvement of Sardar Vallabhai Patel Institute of Paediatrics, Cuttack	83 Million Japan Yen	Japan Cooperation
Maharashtra	Basic Health Project	Euro 10.23 million	Kfw

(d) The status/achievements of various health programmes/projects are as under:

Assistance from WHO:

WHO has been able to mobilize considerable resources in support of health development activity in India. The quantum of funds received and disbursed for technical assistance to various areas of work/projects/programmes in India amounted to approx. US\$ 96.40 million during 2004-2005) biennium, which comprises US\$ 8.75 million from the Regular Budget (RB). During the biennium 2006-07 the quantum of funds received and disbursed amounted to approx. US\$ 84.95 million, which comprises US\$ 8.75 million from the Regular Budget (RB).

NRHM and RCH Programme:

The Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which includes the second phase of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. The RCH-II has been launched w.e.f. April 2005 to reduce total fertility rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country. As per the reporting by the states till now 8755 PHCs have been operationalized 24X7 PHCs against the target of 11335. Trainings are being

undertaken in about 25 states and Union Territories involving about 337 districts, with about 1957 trainers trained. 4881 ANMs/SNs have already been trained. As reported by the states till now, 1594 FRUs have been operationalized against the target of 2685. Performance of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Mijoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry are satisfactory. 295 MBBS doctors have been trained in Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh. 97 Master trainers and 95 MBBS doctors have been trained in obstetric management skill in Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Master Trainers for North East States have been trained and setting up of Centres at district hospitals is in progress. Additional Master Trainer Nodal Centre have been approved at Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Three more tertiary training centres at Surat, Ranchi and Guwahati are being set up in 2007-08.

UNFPA has been supporting the Government of India on contemporary population issues since 1974 through a series of 5-year country programme cycles. The first five country programmes have been

implemented from 1974 till 2002. The sixth country programme (CP-6) has been implemented during 2003-07. CP-6 resources have been utilized on implementation of truncated integrated population and development (IPD) projects in six states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Kerala. After joining SWAp based Reproductive Child Health-II (RCH-II), resources are used for supporting RCH-II programme and for national level activities related to policy advocacy, technical assistance, research and NGO support through Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. During the programme period i.e. 2003-07 out of total allocation of Rs. 242 crores, an amount of Rs. 230 crores was expended on various activities. Thus, an expenditure rate of 97.2% was achieved.

Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS):

The USAID assisted project Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS) has been implemented for 10 years from 1992 to 2002 with a total assistance of US \$ 325 million. The activities were extended and expanded upto September 2004 by including the states of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. The second phase of the project is to continue for another 4 years upto September 2008 and again upto March 2009 with no additional cost. The project sought to achieve the following:

- (i) Increasing access to family planning services by expanding services delivery in the public sector in the non-governmental sector.
- (ii) Improving the quality of family planning services by expanding the choice of contraceptives.
- (iii) Promoting family planning by broadening support among leadership groups and increasing public understanding of the benefits of family planning.

EC supported SIP was implemented as a part of RCH Programme. The objective of the SIP was to promote the System development and Sector reforms. The overall impact of the programme was such that it

paved the way to formulate the RCH-II programme as well as the NRHM.

State Health Development Projects

The World Bank assisted Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand State Health Development Projects have achieved 83% disbursement. Despite the disbursement delays, both the states have performed well during 2006 to 2007. Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka State Development Projects have so far achieved 37%, 25% and 18% disbursements as the projects have been started only recently.

IDSP Project:

World Bank assisted IDSP project have achieved following:

- Training of state/district surveillance teams have been completed for 9 states of phase-I and 13 states of phase-II. A total of 1642 master trainers have been trained.
- Weekly disease surveillance report are received from about 76% (300/397 districts of phase-I and II states).
- Weekly report on outbreak alert is also being collected from all states on an average 15 states reports every week to central surveillance unit, IDSP.
- The IT network on completion will enable 800 sites on a broadband network, 400 sites (out of these 800) will have dual connectivity with satellite and broadband. 250 sites have already been made active by ISRO. 644 data central sites have been installed requisite equipment for broad band connectivity. 509 of these have been provided broadband connections.

Pulse Polio Immunization Programme:

India has made impressive progress towards polio eradication by implementing polio eradication strategies.

Most parts of India are polio free. Of the 35 states

and UTs, 33 states have stopped indigenous poliovirus transmission. Only Uttar Pradesh and Bihar remain endemic for poliovirus because of the uniquely challenging conditions.

There has been an intensification of the programme in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar by increasing the frequency of polio immunization campaigns during 2007 using mOPV1.

Due to this strategy, no cases of P1 have been reported from the endemic districts of Western Uttar Pradesh for more than one year.

P1 circulation in Bihar is restricted to a small portion of blocks that have operational difficulties that got worse during the floods.

Revised National TB Control Programme:

On March 24, 2006, all districts in the country are implementing RNTCP, allowing access of DOTS to all TB patients in the country. Diagnostic facilities in over 12,000 laboratories throughout the country have been established. Quality Assurance protocol is being implemented in all the states. Since its inception, the Programme has initiated over 8.4 million patients on treatment, with a treatment success rate of more than 85% among new cases and 70% among re-treatment cases; the programme has thus saved over 1.5 million additional lives. In 2007, both global targets of NSP treatment success (of 85%) and NSP case detection (of 70%) have been achieved at the national level for the first time after the whole country coverage. The programme successfully involved 260 medical colleges, over 2400 NGOs, 17000 Private Practitioners and over 150 corporate sector health units. TB/HIV collaboration has been scaled up and cross referral mechanism between VCTC and RNTCP diagnostic and treatment services is now being implemented in all states. DOTS Plus services for management of MDR-TB cases have been initiated in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra in March 2007. Till date about 100 MDR patients have been put on treatment in these two states. Another 7 states (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu) are in the

preparatory phase for DOTS-Plus and are expected to initiate these services in 2008.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP):

On account of adequate free supply of Anti Leprosy Drugs (MDT), the country was able to achieve elimination of Leprosy as a public health problem in December, 2005.

AIDS Control Programmes:

The achievements made during the last three years for related activities under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) are as follows:

GFATM Round II: By 2007-2796 ICTCs were offering a package of services including HIV testing, 23629 HIV infected women received a complete course of ARV prophylaxis, 5.6 million pregnant women received counseling and testing and 4796 HIV positive children were given ARV drugs.

GFATM Round III: In 2007 over 3120 new cases of TB were identified through the ICTC and 31210 new cases of TB were identified through ICTCs and 31.3 lakh people received HIV testing.

GFATM Round IV: In 2007, 112 ART centres were established, and 92160 people received ART treatment.

GFATM Round VI: At the end of year 2007, 4104 adults and 1291 children received ART. Over 12.47 million persons received HIV counseling and testing.

DFID: At the end of the programme in 2006-07 over 454 Targeted Intervention projects were supported with their assistance for the most at risk population groups like sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, truckers and migrants.

UNDP: Project Mainstreaming Cell was set up in NACO and in the 5 states. Dedicated HIV/AIDS experts in four ministries were recruited. Link Worker Scheme was rolled out in 5 states and 25 districts.

USAID: In the APAC project 50 NGOs and in AVERT project 70 NGOs are supported who work with population groups most at risk. In addition, APAC

provides care and support to 5600 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) and AVERT provides support to 19100 PLHAs.

WHO: Training of Trainers was conducted in which 424 Trainers were trained for the last three years.

World Bank (pooled with DFID): Till date 736 targeted interventions among high risk groups and

vulnerable population have been set up, for improving access to safe blood 1088 blood banks are funded in the NACP III, for strengthening services for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections 895 STD clinics are being supported and to strengthen the strategic information management system 1156 sentinel surveillance sites have been setup.

Annexure

Table 1

Allocation and implementation status of various health related programmes under biennia 2004-05 of WHO

(in US \$)

Sl.No.	Name of Programme	Allocated and disbursed during 2004 and 2005
1	2	3
1.	Malaria control and Kala Azar	100,000
2.	Tuberculosis Control	75,000
3.	Other communicable Diseases	50,000
4.	Communicable Disease Surveillance	100,000
5.	Cancer control	300,000
6.	Cardiovascular diseases	350,000
7.	Other Non communicable Diseases	50,000
8.	Non communicable Diseases surveillance	50,000
9.	Tobacco	6000,000
10.	Mental Health and Substance Abuse	3000,000
11.	Health Promotion	100,000
12.	Disability, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation and Occupational Health	75,000

1	2	3
13.	Maternal Health (Making Pregnancy Safe)	250,000
14.	HIV/AIDS	100,000
15.	Reproductive and Child Health and Adolescent Health	250,000
16.	Womens Health	50,000
17.	Nursing	400,000
18.	Food Safety	200,000
19.	Nutrition	100,000
20.	Health and Environment	50,000
21.	Emergency Preparedness and Response	50,000
22.	Blood Safety	50,000
23.	Traditional Medicine	300,000
24.	Essential Medicine	425,000,
25.	Health Information and Management	50,000
26.	Health Sector Reforms	200,000
27.	Health Financing and National Health Accounts	200,000
28.	Research Policy and Promotion	100,000
29.	Leprosy	25,000
30.	Non communicable Diseases (Blindness, Deafness, Oral Health etc.)	325,000
31.	Health Care for Elderly	75,000
32.	Safety norms for drinking water	100,000
33.	Health for All	800,000
34.	WHO Fellowship	2,500,000
Total		8,750,000

Table II

Allocation and implementation status of various health related programmes under biennium 2006-07 of WHO

(In US \$)

Sl.No.	Name of Programme	Allocated and disbursed during 2006 and 2007
1	2	3
1.	Malaria control and Kala Azar	97,600
2.	Tuberculosis Control	73,200
3.	Other communicable Diseases	97,600
4.	Communicable Disease Surveillance	1,46,400
	Communicable Disease Research	48,800
5.	Other Non communicable Diseases (cancer, cardiovascular diseases, non communicable diseases surveillance, Blindness, Deafness, oral health)	1,049,200
6.	Tobacco	585,600
7.	Mental Health and Substance Abuse	292,800
8.	Health Promotion and Health care for elderly	178,800
9.	Disability, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation and Occupational Health	73,200
10.	Maternal Health (Making Pregnancy Safe)	292,800
11.	HIV/AIDS	97,600
12.	Reproductive and Child Health and Adolescent Health	302,560
13.	Women Health	48,800
14.	Medical Education and Nursing	390,400
15.	Food Safety	195,200
16.	Nutrition	97,600
17.	Health and Environment including Safe drinking water	146,400
18.	Emergency Preparedness and Response	48,800

1	2	3
19.	Blood Safety	48,800
20.	Traditional/Essential Medicine	707,600
21.	Health Information and Management.	146,400
22.	Health Sector Reforms, Health Financing and National Health Accounts	195,200
23.	Health System and Policy Development	780,800
24.	Health for All	195,200
25.	WHO Fellowship	2,440,000
Total		8,777,360

Table III*Other Sources Funds rolled over and received during the biennium 2004-2005*

Sl.No.	Area of Work/Project/ Programme/Purpose	Amount (US\$)	Name of the Donor/ Funding Agency/ Partner
1	2	3	4
1.	CHARCA	21,000	UNFIP (per annum)
2.	Child and Adolescent Health	3,258	UNICEF
3.	Diphtheria Anti Toxin	171,730	Government
4.	Disease Surveillance	926,198	UNAID
5.	Emergency	146,631	Government of Gujarat
6.	Emergency	70,881	Royal Neitherlands Embassy
7.	Environmental Health	1,226	UNICEF
8.	Environmental Health	70,000	USAID
9.	Health Information Management and Dissemination	37,160	UNF/United Fund for International Partnership
10.	HIV/AIDS	37,400	CDC

1	2	3	4
11.	HIV/AIDS	1,243,800	CIDA
12.	HIV/AIDS	231,600	DFID
13.	HIV/AIDS	1,338,463	Government
14.	HIV/AIDS	155,875	UNSPECIFIED
15.	HIV/AIDS	840,913	UNAIDS
16.	Kala-Azar	42,000	Government
17.	Leprosy	2,304,164	Sasakawa Foundation
18.	LF	165,183	World Bank
19.	Macro economics	322,393	Bill Gates
20.	Malaria	2605	Government
21.	Malaria	350,000	USAID
22.	Measles	107,394	Bill Gates
23.	Polio Eradication	117,600	Bill Gates
24.	Polio Eradication	1,379,572	CDC
25.	Polio Eradication	6,795,001	Government
26.	Polio Eradication	4,255,725	Rotary International
27.	Polio Eradication	1,264,452	Italy
28.	Polio Eradication	132,000	UNFIP
29.	Polio Eradication, TB, Surveillance	16,592,310	USAID
30.	Polio Eradication/Malaria/Emergency	35,229,251	DFID
31.	Polio Eradication-FI	15,000	UNSPECIFIED
32.	Rabies	9,040	Chiron Behring Gmbh and Co.
33.	Routine Immunization	31,885	GAVI
34.	Routine Immunization	23,875	UNICEF
35.	Routine Immunization	200,000	UNSPECIFIED
36.	TB	7,299,262	CIDA
37.	TB	540,858	DFID

1	2	3	4
38.	TB	9,264,241	Government
39.	TB	4,250,000	USA
40.	Tsunami	63,600	Sweden
41.	Tsunami	350,000	UNICEF
Total (US \$)		96,402,546	

Table IV

*Other Sources Funds rolled over and received during the biennium 2006-2007
(as on 31 August 2007)*

Sl.No.	Area of Work/Project/ Programme/Purpose	Amount (US\$)	Name of the Donor/ Funding Agency/ Partner
1	2	3	4
1.	Child and Adolescent Health	896	UNICEF
2.	Child and Adolescent Health	28,375	USAID
3.	Child and Adolescent Health	10,000	Unspecified
4.	Child and Adolescent Health/Immunization	1,262,968	Norway
5.	Disease Surveillance	61,355	UNDP
6.	Disease Surveillance	2,337,456	USAID
7.	Disease Surveillance	74,238	World Bank
8.	Environmental Health	1,226	UNICEF
9.	Environmental Health	29,050	USAID
10.	HIV/AIDS	45,000	CDC
11.	HIV/AIDS	1,004,874	CIDA
12.	HIV/AIDS	230,195	DFID
13.	HIV/AIDS	6,858	Government
14.	HIV/AIDS	32,000	UNICEF

1	2	3	4
15.	HIV/AIDS	162,834	Unspecified
16.	HIV/AIDS	905,781	UNAIDS
17.	HIV/AIDS	80,863	World Bank
18.	Injury Prevention	22,600	Unspecified
19.	Kala-Azar	1,471,254	Government
20.	Leprosy	1,375,993	Sasakawa Foundation
21.	LF	117,373	World Bank
22.	Malaria	827,764	USAID
23.	Polio Eradication	126,000	Bill Gates
24.	Polio Eradication	548,775	CDC
25.	Polio Eradication	11,373,556	DFID
26.	Polio Eradication	6,490,943	Government
27.	Polio Eradication	2,785,265	Rotary International
28.	Polio Eradication	214,777	Unspecified
29.	Polio Eradication	13,258,557	USAID
30.	Polio Eradication	4,410,000	World Bank
31.	Routine Immunization	52,895	Bill Gates
32.	Routine Immunization	396,822	DFID
33.	Routine Immunization	2,772,975	Government
34.	Routine Immunization	453,301	UNICEF
35.	Routine Immunization	1,121,600	USAID
36.	Routine Immunization	53,939	World Bank
37.	TB	3,366,082	CIDA
38.	TB	2,360,990	Government
39.	TB	11,717,257	USAID
40.	TB	3,502,727	Unspecified

1	2	3	4
41.	Tobacco Control	209,416	World Lung Foundation (USA)
42.	Tsunami Project	27,471	Sweden
43.	Tsunami Project	700,000	UNICEF
44.	Yellow Fever Vaccine (Procurement)	104,599	Government
45.	Other Programmes	65,364	Various Sources
Total (US \$)		76,202,264	

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Presently you will read your question, please ask next time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know, then why do you do like this.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: In the answer given by the hon. Minister, there is a very detailed information with regard to international agencies which give assistance to us. It is true that the Government of India also mobilizes the resources to meet the demands and the various State Governments also do the same thing. At the same time, we get funds or resources through international agencies and we also mobilize resources from our country. I would like to know whether there is any comprehensive and coordinated plan to give assistance to those who had to be given this assistance.

Now-a-days, the alarming disease is the cancer. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister can take a bold stand to give free treatment to all the cancer patients because this treatment is not only very costly but its emergence is also very alarming.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this question. It is much beyond the scope of this question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I have given a 17-page answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, an elaborate answer has been given.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in my answer, I have covered all the projects, domestic funding as well as externally-assisted projects. We go through a mechanism and the Ministry of External Affairs is also involved in getting funds from any outside agency.

Coming to the second question about cancer, in the Tenth Five Year Plan, before our Government took over, the total allocation for cancer project was only Rs. 280 crore for five years. We alongwith the Prime Minister made it a point to the Planning Commission so that the allocation for cancer could be increased. It is because cancer is one of the costliest diseases to treat. Unfortunately, the individual dies and then the entire family comes on the road after spending a lot of money and after selling their house property and all that. It is very important that we have to put in a lot of resources on early detection and prevention of cancer. We are focusing on that. I would like to inform the House that for the 11th Five Year Plan, we have earmarked an allocation of nearly Rs. 2900 crore for cancer. From Rs. 280 crore in the Tenth Plan, we have increased it to Rs. 2900 crore in the 11th Plan for cancer. That is my focus that we are giving for cancer.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh, on condition that no slogan shouting in future.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You Please ask a question, I have called you for asking a question.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier when malaria and TB eradication programmes were implemented, these diseases were under control. I do not know about other places but I have been witnessing for last two-three years, that the number of TB and malaria patients are increasing in my parliamentary constituency. Earlier, TB eradication programme and malaria eradication programmes were conducted through hospitals at district level. The funds that were being given by the Centre for these programmes have almost been stopped...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you seen the reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that as per his reply it has been told that for malaria and TB funds have been provided to different institutions. He said that Government is going to launch dots plus services for towns and services have already been provided in Maharashtra and Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)* Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now put your question, please.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question. The Minister submitted that it is going to be further implemented in six other States. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that people are severely infested with these two disease in my state.

Mr. speaker, sir, I would like to know whether the dots plus TB programme is also going to be launched in my state Madhya Pradesh, if so by when?

MR. SPEAKER: What is the relation of your question with this? Still it is all right. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I do not know how much the hon. Member has understood about the DOTS Plus TB programme. If the hon. Member could come to my office, I could explain him in person about the intensity of the TB programme. We have the revised National TB Control Programme. The entire country is covered under this Programme. When I say the entire country, I would say that it is one of the largest public health programmes in the entire world and this Programme has been very much appreciated by the World Health Organisation and other UN bodies.

I would like to say about the success rates today. Earlier, it was about 25 per cent and today, it has gone upto 86 per cent. The death rates by the TB Programme has come down from 29 per cent to less than four per cent. The annual detection rate has gone upto 71 per cent whereas the global annual detection rate is 70 per cent. We are at 71 per cent. Sir, we have saved nearly about 1.5 million lives of TB patients due to this DOTS Programme. Last year, we have put in nearly 1.5 million under DOTS Programme. The cumulative figure, right from the last five to six years, is about 8 million people who have been put under DOTS Programme. We have 4000 DOTS providers and nearly 12,000 microscopic testing centres in the country. It covers all the States in the country. It is not the question of high focus or something like that. The entire country is covered under this Programme. We have DOTS providers and microscopic centres. Nearly 150 corporate hospitals are involved in this Programme. The Indian Medical Association is covering nearly 162 districts and all the Medical Colleges are involved in this Programme.

MR.SPEAKER: Since you have invited him, you share the information with him.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Definitely, I would like to do so.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[English]

There is information covered in 17 pages. You may just read it. I would allow you next time.

**Road-Map to Check Increasing
Air-pollution**

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*525. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any road-map to control air-pollution in the country during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has collected data in this regard before finalization of such road-map;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing air-pollution particularly in urban and industrial areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the Eleventh Plan period, the following activities are under implementation for

controlling air pollution in the country. These are particularly relevant for urban and industrial areas of the country:

- (i) Strengthening of manual ambient air quality network by addition of stations and monitoring of additional pollutants;
- (ii) Setting up of additional continuous air quality monitoring stations and facilities for real time display of data;
- (iii) Strengthening of monitoring and analytical facilities for measuring critical air pollutants like dioxins, furans and polyaromatic hydrocarbons;
- (iv) Undertaking review of the ambient air quality standards;
- (v) Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) for highly air polluting industries;
- (vi) Undertaking Source Apportionment Studies in cities in addition to the studies already taken up during the Tenth Plan period;
- (vii) Implementation of the Auto Fuel Policy recommendations for vehicular pollution control;
- (viii) Undertaking air pollution studies particularly relating to health aspects; and
- (ix) Development of a National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) including activities to deal with unintended production of dioxins and furans.

(c) and (d) The above schemes have been taken up for implementation based on the data available on the ambient air quality and considering the standards to be met by air polluting industries.

(e) To check the air pollution, various steps have been initiated which include:

- (i) Notification of emission standards for various categories of industry notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;
- (ii) Drawing up action plans for improvement of the ambient air quality in 16 cities;
- (iii) Cleaner fuels introduced for control of vehicular pollution as per Auto Fuel Policy;
- (iv) Use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants;
- (v) Enforcement of 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate scheme to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles;
- (vi) Sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke-two and three wheelers;
- (vii) Implementation of stringent emission norms for Diesel Generator Sets;
- (viii) Source Apportionment studies undertaken in 6 (six) metro cities, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Kanpur and Chennai;
- (ix) Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for Seventeen Categories of air polluting industries; and
- (x) Monitoring of air polluting industries for compliance of the emission norms.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though main reason of air pollution in big cities of the country is the presence of large number of vehicles, however, when we talk about general plan to tackle air pollution we should not forget that coal based big thermal power stations, fertilizer plants, chemical plants, distillery plant, iron ore and steel plants are prominent source of air pollution. These plants cause huge air pollution. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to make essential to set up QMS for monitoring such major polluting

industries so that air pollution can be controlled and the cost of setting up QMS should be put on those industries. It will be considered by the Government whether to make it essential?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Air Quality Monitoring Programme is being implemented in the country to check air pollution. It is true that apart from vehicles, the quality of air deteriorates on account of industrial pollution as well. Standards have been laid down for all the industries regarding air pollution and whenever any new industry is set up, the extent of pollution caused by the said industry is judged in course of its impact assessment to ascertain whether more pollution is not caused and thus the industry administration is asked to put in place necessary equipments to keep the extent of pollution well within limit.

Sir, as far as monitoring is concerned, the Central Pollution Control Board, the State Pollution Control Boards and the Committees in Union territories are the main enforcing agencies and wherever pollution caused by any industry is beyond its limit or there is any violation against set standards, action is taken against the industry. The Central Pollution Control Board has also taken action, given direction and sufficient time is given in this regard. If the pollution is not controlled despite all this, then closure notice is served upon such industry. I agree that whenever impact assessment of industries takes place, they are forced to set up all necessary gadgets to control pollution at their own cost.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raipur and Raigarh of Chhattisgarh hold second or third position in respect of most polluted cities of the country. The industries located in these cities do not conform to the norms laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Central Pollution Control Board has done any inspection of the industrial units spreading pollution in Chhattisgarh during the last three years. If so, what action has been taken against those who have been found guilty?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any information

about a special project right now? If you do not have any such information, collect it and inform him.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: I do have the figures in respect of the action taken in this regard, but I do not have the concerning any specific figures.

I will provide you the figures about the number of people against whom action has been taken.

MR. SPEAKER: How can he divulge the details thereof.

Shri Kishanbhai Patel—Absent.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about vehicular pollution in the country. The Government has taken some steps to check vehicular pollution, but the result is being seen only in big metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc. In other cities of this country wherethere are school-going children, kerosene oil is used in big quantity and thus, the third generation of our country is badly affected by all this pollution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has any proposal to make compulsory the use of CNG fuelled autos and vehicles in all the cities of the country or not which fall under the municipal corporation and municipality areas on the lines of the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai where he has promoted the use of CNG vehicles?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we have installed 341 stations all over the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme and we have connected 126 cities with these stations and the air quality monitoring of these cities is being done. We receive regular data in this regard so that we could formulate our strategy on account of that. As far as the source of so much pollution is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: For this 6 studies

are being conducted and we are expecting their result by the month of June to ascertain how much pollution is being generated by vehicles, industries and natural dust, separately. After getting the result of these studies we will examine the fact as to where and how this pollution is being emitted in the whole country and take precaution in this regard and wherever necessary, we will formulate a national policy as well as a strategy which is required for air quality. We will also keep in view the suggestions received from various quarters to chalk out such policy. Auto fuel policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The hon'ble Minister is not giving proper reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence in the House please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not write to him. Nothing to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting brevity and specificity on both sides.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: I am telling you that it will be enforced in various cities of the country as per their requirement after the result of the study is received. If there will be a need to bring a change in the Auto fuel policy also, it could be done by reviewing it.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to have a full discussion on this.

Shri Barman, please ask a brief and specific question.

*Not recorded.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: The road map to check increasing air pollution, as drawn by the Government and given in the reply, appears to be satisfactory though much details have not been given.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: May I know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, how implementation of the Auto Fuel Policy recommendations for vehicular pollution control, particularly in regard to emission from diesel-fuelled heavy vehicles, is being monitored and penal measures taken in relevant cases?

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we have a road map for Auto-fuel policy under which action is being taken in the country. As far as enforcement and implementation of this policy is concerned, already there are State Control Boards and traffic police all over the country to take action against those who are violating emission norms. As given in the field manual of this policy, Bharat Stage-II is being implemented in the entire country, while at present Bharat Stage-III is implemented in 11 towns. As soon as the result of the apportionment studies is received, we will review the auto fuel policy afresh.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I would prefer to have the hon. Prime Minister answer my question...
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, do not say that. That is not fair. We have to have respect for each other in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: If he would have respect for us by giving the right answers, then we would have respect for him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you are very articulate.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Instead of collecting more data there are certain things which are so self-evident that they have been written about again and again. Unless a road map is made for them, no other thing is relevant.

I want to know the following things: One, when are we going to make a decision on whether we jump to hybrids or fuel cell technology in cars? Two, what are we going to do about phasing out the normal light bulbs? Three, what are we going to do about the coal power plants? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking so many questions. One question is sufficient.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the fourth part is really important as suggested by Dr. Pachauri, are we going to allocate the subsidies that we put on kerosene oil on to solar energy instead?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take part in the debate. There will be a debate on this topic whole day in the next week.

Mr. Minister, please answer any one of them which is easier for you to answer.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA: So far as you stated about the Auto fuel policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Cleaner fuel is being used in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA: This is a part of the auto fuel policy. Auto fuel policy is made by the other Ministry. We are there to implement it; we are there to fix standards and standards are fixed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Manpower in
Healthcare Sector**

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*526. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether according to a Planning Commission report, there is an acute shortage of doctors, nurses and dental surgeons as reported in the "Times of India" dated April 03, 2008;

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

(c) whether the doctor-patient ratio in the country is very low as compared to that of the developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Statement

(a) to (e) As per report of the High Level Group on Services Sector, constituted by the Planning Commission, there is a requirement of at least six lakh doctors, if the targeted doctor population norm is taken as 1:1000. The task force on human resources in the health sector set up by the Planning Commission for the XI Plan assessed the number of dental surgeons registered in India as 73,271 against the requirement of 282,130 in 2007. There is a similar shortage of nurses. Going by the Bhole Committee norm of nurse population ratio (1:500), the requirement of nurses should be 2,188,890 in 2007, against which only 1,156,372 nurses were available. The number of doctors

registered by different State Councils stood at 6,68,131 during the year 2006, giving a doctor to population ratio of 60:100000. It is short of the ratio prevalent in the developed countries.

There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country. As per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,02,580. Thus, the allopathic doctor-population ratio works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than six lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870. There are 271 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 31,122 who add upto the existing medical manpower.

In order to expand the facilities of the medical education and health related services under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in the under-served States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government medical colleges/institutions in 10 States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new medical colleges in the Government as well as private sector and also an increase in intake capacity of medical students. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to two-doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has told you all, what else would you like to ask?

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: India is short of six lakh doctors, ten lakh nurses and two lakh dental surgeons. A lot of them have migrated to various developed countries. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir whether the Government has taken any steps to stop the brain-drain in the medical field and to bring back the physicians who have settled abroad to bridge the shortage, and if so, the details thereof.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I would like to thank the hon. Member for putting up a very good question.

MR. SPEAKER: But I want a brief answer from you.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: That is the problem. The Government today is taking a number of steps. The hon. Member was referring to the foreign doctors who want to come back. Today, the problem of brain-drain is not from India to abroad but it is from the public sector to the private sector. A good thing is that with the concept of medical tourism, now, patients are coming from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and from the developed countries to India. There are hundreds of thousands of them coming here. Today, not only the patients who are coming but also the doctors who have gone abroad 20-30 years ago and settled there are coming back in hundreds and thousands to settle down here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of them are coming to private hospitals!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir, most of them come to private hospitals. But the as the policy in the Government sector is such that, we have also a problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What problem?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: To facilitate that process, recently, I think, two months ago, we have unilaterally, initially, recognised the foreign Post-Graduate medical degrees of the English-speaking countries. Initially, the degrees from five countries like the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have been recognised. In due course of time, we will recognise the Post-Graduate Degrees from the other countries as well so that if any Indian who studies upto Post-Graduate there, could come back to India, settle down and then start practising.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am sure, no more questions are there. I thank you for your cooperation.

Q. No. 527—Shrimati Bhavana P. Gawali—not here.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I have given my name.

MR. SPEAKER: I will see next time.

Q. No. 528—Shri Vijoy Krishna—not present.

Q. No. 529—Shrimati Neeta Pateriya—Thank you very much for being here.

[*Translation*]

Illegal Trade of Wildlife Articles

*529. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal trade of wild-life articles has increased over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the said illegal trade?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Generally illegal trade in wildlife takes place across the border. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of the Ministry has its regional offices at the major exit points namely Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi, and cases of illegal wildlife trade detected by these offices within their jurisdiction during the last three years region-wise as given in the Annexure indicate a fluctuating trend.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check illegal trade and poaching of Wildlife are as follows:

- (i) Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest protection.
- (ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
- (iii) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (iv) Regular training courses are conducted for other concerned departments and enforcement agencies like Customs, Para military forces etc. for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.
- (v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection)

Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

- (vi) Protected Areas, Viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species.
- (vii) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- (viii) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

Annexure

Number of Cases of Illegal Wildlife Trade Detected by Regional Offices

Year	Region				Total
	Eastern Regional office at Kolkata	Northern Regional office at New Delhi	Southern Regional office at Chennai	Western Regional office at Mumbai	
2005	20	23	7	20	70
2006	17	17	3	23	60
2007	25	7	4	49	85

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a number of Acts for the protection of wild animals, yet they are not safe. Reports always come about people getting caught for trafficking of wild

animals' body parts like hide, tusk, bone, meat etc. Such an illegal trade of wild life articles is on even after the measures taken by the Government. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action is being taken by the Government to get the prevailing measures more result oriented?

[English]

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the live specimens of wildlife species and products derived from wildlife species are two major categories of traded items. The illegal trade in wildlife is a global issue. From animal parts like tiger bones and musk glands to live reptiles, birds and ivory, poachers and smugglers illegally poach and traffic a variety of wild plant and animal species. The Government, through various agencies, is taking all steps to control the illegal trade.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are providing any special protection force and financial assistance to check the illegal trade being carried out across the border States. At the same time, I would also like to know whether among those who have been apprehended for illegal trade of wildlife articles, particularly trade of hide the number of Tibetans is more.

[English]

SHRI S. REGHPATHY: There are five Regional Offices under the Ministry of Forests. The local Governments, State Governments, the State Forest Department, the CBI and the Customs and Intelligence Agencies, all of them, take care to protect them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: I have asked whether among the people apprehended in regard to the illegal trade of hide, the number of Tibetans is more. Hon'ble Minister has not given reply to this question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good.

[English]

It is not good to target one group of people. Targeting one group of people will give a wrong impression.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has information about the people involved in the illegal trading and poaching in the forest. What action has he taken against them? Mr. Minister, Question Hour is going to be over. Please reply quickly.

[English]

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: We cannot identify any particular persons that they are involved in illegal trading. Those who are involved in the illegal trading, action has been taken against them.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Thank you for your cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Kidney Transplantation Units in Government Hospitals

*523. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish kidney transplantation units in various Government hospitals located in Delhi.

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

(c) whether the number of beds for the kidney transplant patients in such Units are adequate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, has been undertaking kidney transplantation since last 30 years and is regularly doing kidney transplant. AIIMS maintains six post operation beds for kidney

transplant patients. Beds for kidney transplant patients are earmarked for the purpose of post operative management. Thereafter, patients would be admitted, if required, in the nephrology ward(s) of the hospitals, which has 44 beds in total. Efforts are afoot: to establish Renal Transplantation Units in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi. In Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, the unit would be operationalised with 2 beds and further augmentation will be reviewed as per requirements in future. The renal transplant unit will have a 2 bedded ICU. Surgeons, Nurses and pathologists have already undergone training at AIIMS. Nephrologists and dialysis facility are available in the hospital. In Safdarjung hospital, six beds have been included in ICU for kidney transplant patients. Two Surgeons have been trained for Renal Transplant. Operation Theatre Technicians and nurses have also been trained for renal transplant. One Pathologist has been trained for renal transplant pathology. Equipments in the form of OT table, electro country machines and surgical equipments have already been procured. Other equipments like OT light, dialysis machine, ultrasound machines etc. are under process of procurement.

[Translation]

Power Generation by CIL

*527. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to enter the field of power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of units of CIL included/proposed to be included in the said venture;

(d) the estimated funds likely to be invested by the CIL in such project and the quantity of electricity likely to be generated as a result thereof; and

(e) the time by which the project for generation of power is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) Yes,

Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) and some of its subsidiary companies have planned to enter into the field of power generation through joint ventures (JV). Details are as under.

- (i) CIL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) to develop Coal Blocks including Brahmani and Chichro-Patsimal Coal Blocks and power projects.
- (ii) A JV between Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) is under consideration for establishment of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) power plant in the North Karanpura Coalfields.
- (iii) Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) is considering formation of a JV with NLC for integrated coal mine cum thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh.
- (iv) Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has in principle agreed to set up a thermal power station of 2X500 MW capacity through a JV with Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) in Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) intends to enter into JV with Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) for power generation.

(d) and (e) The above proposals are in initial stages and the details regarding likely investment, likely generation of electricity and likely time frame for commissioning are not available since the Detailed Project Reports are yet to be formulated.

[English]

Assistance to Victims of Chikungunya/Dengue

*528. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any assistance to the victims of Chikungunya and Dengue diseases during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cope up with these diseases during the forthcoming Monsoon Season?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Government does not provide any assistance directly to the victims of Chikungunya and Dengue diseases. However, Government of India strengthens the State Health Services by providing test kits to facilitate the diagnostic services and training to the Medical Officers for management of the cases. It also provides cash and commodity assistance to the State(s) for prevention and control of vector borne diseases including dengue and Chikungunya. The state-wise assistanc (cash + commodity) released during the last 3 years is enclosed at Statement-I. Out of total funds, Government of India has released emergency package to most affected State(s) for prevention and control of Chikungunya fever, which re-emerged in the country almost after three decades. Details enclosed as Statement-II.

In addition, the following steps have been/is being taken by Government of India for prevention and control of Dengue and Chikungunya:

- Government is monitoring the implementation of the strategies of the Long Term Action Plan by the State(s) for prevention and control of Dengue and Chikungunya.
- Ensuring functioning of the 110 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals and Apex Referral Laboratories to facilitate the diagnostic facilities in the State(s) by providing IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Dengue and Chikungunya.
- National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune has been entrusted to supply IgM ELISA test kits for diagnosis of Dengue and Chikungunya to the identified institutes as per the technical requirement of the State(s) under the guidance of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP). The cost of these test kits is borne by Government of India.
- Ensuring trained laboratory teams on sero-diagnosis of Dengue and Chikungunya in the identified institutes.
- Endemic States have been requested to place rapid response teams at State and district Headquarters to implement the remedial measures at the earliest on receipt of the report of any dengue or Chikungunya case to prevent its further spread. Situation and preparedness of National Capital Region (NCR), which contributes maximum numbers of Dengue cases (upto 30%), was reviewed by Director, NVBDCP on 20th February 2008 and by Additional Director General, Directorate General of Health Services, on 15th April 2008.
- Long Term Action Plan for prevention and control of Dengue and Chikungunya has been circulated to all States for guidance and compliance.
- Adulticides and larvicides as per technical requirement of the State(s) are being supplied.
- Advisories are issued from time to time to provide technical guidance to State(s).

Statement-I

State-wise release of funds under NVBDCP from 2005-06 to 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1019.25	1170.62	1961.17

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	484.66	439.81	566.99
3.	Assam	1360.06	1588.11	3582.09
4.	Bihar	2883.42	1909.22	2019.63
5.	Chhattisgarh	2060.91	2579.43	2668.39
6.	Goa	38.64	27.40	118.20
7.	Gujarat	740.53	1059.80	1608.85
8.	Haryana	69.22	283.96	172.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.12	0.00	5.30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	17.51	6.49	4.50
11.	Jharkhand	1746.71	2862.64	2076.75
12.	Karnataka	520.73	693.67	364.26
13.	Kerala	282.60	431.44	855.26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1432.67	1569.17	1630.68
15.	Maharashtra	815.11	1272.01	1851.39
16.	Manipur	269.66	367.15	369.13
17.	Meghalaya	422.67	496.08	542.51
18.	Mizoram	387.87	507.05	498.52
19.	Nagaland	432.41	695.28	549.27
20.	Orissa	2804.47	3577.27	5166.04
21.	Punjab	60.41	40.98	57.07
22.	Rajasthan	917.04	877.36	1701.78
23.	Sikkim	25.16	12.93	4.98
24.	Tamil Nadu	347.31	753.49	751.38
25.	Tripura	648.44	668.29	905.65
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2938.63	2159.32	1617.55
27.	Uttaranchal	66.82	29.12	47.26

1	2	3	4	5
28.	West Bengal	1027.83	1434.62	1726.42
29.	Delhi	75.74	248.35	236.70
30.	Pondicherry	39.60	154.77	18.58
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	297.61	429.42	365.58
32.	Chandigarh	52.24	42.62	56.81
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	43.71	39.46	51.26
34.	Daman and Diu	24.15	20.36	24.66
35.	Lakshadweep	20.29	18.23	2.80
Total		24392.20	28939.46	34179.80

Statement-II*Release of cash assistance as emergency package for Chikungunya.*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2006-07 Funds released	2007-08 Funds released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	220.50	181.26
2.	Gujarat	220.50	0.00
3.	Karnataka	220.50	0.00
4.	Kerala	220.50	403.90
5.	Madhya Pradesh	220.50	0.00
6.	Maharashtra	220.50	15.15
7.	Rajasthan	220.50	0.00
8.	Delhi	170.50	0.00
9.	Tamil Nadu	220.50	200.00

1	2	3	4
10.	Pondicherry	130.50	0.00
11.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	95.46	0.00
12.	Goa	0.00	75.00
Total		2160.46	875.31

[Translation]

**Separate Counters for C.G.H.S.
Beneficiaries**

*530. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open separate counters in the Central Government Hospitals for C.G.H.S. beneficiaries, especially for the senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said counters are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Safdarjang Hospital has a separate OPD wing for the CGHS beneficiaries covering Medical, Surgical, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Eye and ENT, facilities.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital has separate CGHS OPD for Medical and Surgical facilities and separate counter for registration.

There is also a provision for senior citizens to form a separate queue for OPD registration and they are not required to stand in the normal queue.

[English]

High Incidence of Anaemia

*531. ADV. SURESH KURUP:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether the prevalence of anaemia is very high in pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in the country;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidence of anaemia amongst women/girls in the country?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) According to National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06), 58.7% pregnant mothers, 63.2% breast feeding mothers/lactating mothers and 55.8% girls in the age group of 15-19 years are suffering from anemia. Anemia is a multifaceted problem. The important reasons for widespread anemia are inadequate intake and absorption of iron from cereal based diet, inadequate consumption of green leafy vegetables and citrus fruits, frequent pregnancies with shorter intervals, high prevalence of infections and infestations, faulty feeding practices and lack of dietary diversification. Apart from aforesaid factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development have a bearing on the incidence of anemia among people of our country.

(c) Government has initiated several measures to improve the health and nutritional status including

anemia amongst the people. Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) is an important component of NRHM and provides effective maternal and child health care; micronutrient interventions for vulnerable groups, reproductive health services for adolescent, etc. Under the RCH Programme, iron and folic acid tablets are provided to all pregnant and lactating mothers and preschool children for control of anemia. Children upto 10 years and adolescents in the age group of 11-18 years are now covered under programme.

The various measures are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Measures to reduce the nutritional Anemia

Government has initiated various measures to improve the nutritional status including anemia in the population. The measures are:

1. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) provides iron and folic acid tablets to all pregnant and lactating women and preschool children for anemia control. Now it has been decided that children 6 months to 5 years would be given 20 mgs iron and 100 mcg folic acid supplement in liquid form. Children 6-10 years would be provided with 30 mg iron and 250 mcg folic acid while adolescents in the age group 11-18 years would receive the same dose 35 adults.

A village link worker (ASHA) under the NRHM will orient the community on the importance of Nutrition and shall he provider IFA tablets besides orienting the community on other health related issues.

The States have been advised to organize monthly Health and Nutrition days where anemia prevention measures are also discussed.

2. Supplementary feeding through programmes like Integrated Child Development services scheme. Children in the age group 0-6 years receive supplementary nutrition, immunization, preschool education etc. Supplementary food to pregnant women/nursing mothers to the extent of 500 Calories and 20-25 g protein per day is

also provided alongwith nutrition and health education. One of the recent steps to increase the effectiveness of services under ICDS is the provision of 50% of Recommended Dietary allowanccs (RDA) of micronutrients through supplementary food.

Supplementary food is also provided through National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal programme) to school going children.

3. A National Nutrition Policy was adopted in 1993 and the National Plan Action on nutrition is being implemented through various departments of Government of India. A National Nutrition Mission under the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been proposed to deal with all nutritional problems through a Mission mode approach.

4. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

5. Other measures initiated by the Government to improve the Nutritional Status of the people are:

- Improving agricultural and horticulture produce
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution system and Public Distribution system

6. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micro-nutrient Deficiency Disorders other than iron deficiency;

- (i) Under RCH programme Vitamin A supplements are provided to children till 5 years of age.
- (ii) National Iodine Deticiency disease Control Programme (NIDDCP).

7. Pilot initiatives on fortification of micronutrients with atta (Flour), oil etc.

8. As part of filariasis control Hetrazan along with Albendazole are administered as part of filarisis control. Deworming helps improve anaemia.

9. National Malaria Control Programme.

Research Projects on Fluorosis

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any plan to set up research projects on Fluorosis in different parts of the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the locations where such projects are likely to be set up; and

(c) the assistance given by the Union Government for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There is no plan to set up research projects on fluorosis in the country. However, the Planning Commission has approved a new initiative entitled 'National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis' to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan in 100 districts for an amount of Rs. 68 crores.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Fuel to Atomic
Power Plants**

*533. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the atomic power plants in the country are facing shortage of fuel due to mismatch between demand and supply of natural uranium;

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

(c) the installed capacity of each of these plants and the actual quantity of electricity generated during the last three years, plant-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure continuous supply of fuel to each of these atomic power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The total installed nuclear power capacity is 4120 MWe. Among the nuclear reactors in operation Tarapur Atomic Power Station units 1 and 2 (320 MWe) use imported Uranium for which fuel is available. The balance 3800 MWe capacity uses indigenous natural uranium, of which there is mismatch in demand and supply. This capacity is thus being operated at a lower power level matching the fuel supply.

(c) The details of installed capacity and electricity generation during the last three years, station-wise, are as under:

Station	Present installed Capacity (MWe)	Generation (Million Units)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
TAPS 1 and 2	320	1657	2603	2551
TAPS 3 and 4	1080	2010	3898	4789
RAPS 1 and 2	200	1401	1202	327
RAPS 3 and 4	440	3039	2466	2341
MAPS 1 and 2	440	1852	2622	1749

1	2	3	4	5
NAPS 1 and 2	440	2138	1024	674
KAPS 1 and 2	440	2367	2446	2030
KGS 1 and 2	440	2860	2541	2085
KGS 3 and 4	220	—	—	410

Legend:

TAPS:	Tarapur Atomic Power Station
RAPS:	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station
MAPS:	Madras Atomic Power Station
NAPS:	Narora Atomic Power Station
KAPS:	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station
KGS:	Kaiga Generating Station

(d) All out efforts have been made by the Government to augment fuel supply to increase the production by opening of new mines and augmenting processing facilities. New mines are being opened in Jharkhand and a new mill has also been set up. Work on a new mine at Tummalapalle has been started. All efforts are being made to open mines at Lambapur (Andhra Pradesh) and KPM (Meghalaya). Various activities to set up new mines at Gogi (Karnataka), Rohil (Rajasthan), Wahkyn (Meghalaya) and Chitrial (Andhra Pradesh) are being pursued.

[English]

**Special Accelerated Roads
Development Programme**

*534. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the road-map for the Special Accelerated Roads Development Programme in the North-East (SARDP-NE) and the projects taken thereunder during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent therefrom under the Programme during the last three years and the current year, project-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry works in coordination with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and the North Eastern Council for implementation of various projects under the SARDP-NE; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE) has been formulated to improve the primary road network of the region with the objective of improving road connectivity to State capital and District Headquarter towns, remote and backward areas, international borders and strategic roads. The programme is divided in Phase 'A' and Phase 'B' covering construction/upgradation of 2304 km. and 6433 km. length respectively. State-wise road length included in the programme is given in Statement-I. Phase 'A' has been approved for implementation and Phase 'B' has been approved only for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Implementation of Phase 'A' started from 2006-07 and the length of roads state-wise actually taken up for execution during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given in Statement-II.

(b) Each phase of SARDP-NE is treated as project. Funds allocated for the entire SARDP-NE and the expenditure incurred is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds allocated for entire SARDP-NE	Expenditure		Total
		Phase 'A'	Phase 'B'	
2006-07	550	449.19	0.15	449.34
2007-08	710	685.90	0.22	686.12
2008-09	1200	—	—	—

(c) and (d) Implementation of the programme is being got done by the Ministry through Border Roads Organisation, National Highways Authority of India and State Public Works Departments of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim. A High Powered Committee headed by Secretary, Road Transport and Highways with members from Ministries of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER), Finance, Statistics and Programme Implementation,

Defence, Environment and Forests, Home Affairs, Planning Commission, Chairman, NHAI, Director General, Border Roads and State Governments of North Eastern Region has been set up to coordinate implementation of the programme and approve detailed estimates of sub-projects. Consultation with Ministry of DONER and the North Eastern Council is also held through the meetings taken at higher levels from time to time.

Statement-I

(Length in km.)

State	Phase 'A'			Phase 'B'			Phase 'A'+ 'B'		
	NH	State/GS/ strategic roads	Total	NH	State/GS/ strategic roads	Total	NH	State/GS/ strategic roads	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	32	212	244	335	2372	2707	367	2584	2951
Assam	1049	0	1049	0	471	471	1049	471	1520
Manipur	39	108	147	92	58	150	131	166	297
Meghalaya	176	0	176	179	223	402	355	223	578
Mizoram	102	0	102	535	272	807	637	272	909
Nagaland	81	8	89	706	511	1217	787	519	1306
Sikkim	80	87	167	0	233	233	80	320	400
Tripura	330	0	330	110	336	446	440	336	776
Grand Total	1889	415	2304	1957	4476	6433	3846	4891	8737

Statement-II

State	2006-07		2007-08	
	Length (km.)	Amount (Rs. crore)	Length (km.)	Amount (Rs. crore)
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	118.85	302.88
Assam	374.90	820.78	103.15	315.55
Manipur	82.93	124.60	43.06	91.0
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	0.13	23.0	31.42
Nagaland	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	42.85	310.60	—	18.54
Tripura	—	—	—	—
Grand Total	500.68	1256.11	223.06	760.45

**Private Sector Investment in
Professional Institutions**

*535. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private sector investment in institutions imparting professional education;

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

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) NDC approved Eleventh Plan document states that "Expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality throughout the higher and technical education system by enhancing public

spending, encouraging private initiatives and initiating the long overdue major institutional and policy reforms will form the core of the Eleventh plan effort". The long term goal is to set India as a nation in which all those who aspire to good quality higher education can access it, irrespective of their paying capacity.

2. During the Eleventh Plan, intake of technical education institutions need to grow at an estimated 15% annually, to meet the skilled manpower needs of our growing economy. Such expansion in intake capacity cannot be achieved through public investment alone. Infact, during the Tenth Plan the share of private un-aided higher education institutions increased from 42.6% in 2001 to 63.21% in 2006. The share of enrolment also increased from 32.89% to 51.53% in the same period. The trend is likely to continue in the XI Plan. Out of 5067 degree level institutions approved by AICTE, 4479 are private institutions.

3. Private sector investment in institutions imparting professional education is currently allowed and during

the last few years it has substantially increased. We expect the same trend to continue. It is not possible to give any precise projection of the quantum of likely investment in the eleventh plan.

4. Past experience shows that private initiatives have been responsible for setting up of some first rate institutions: viz. TIFR, Mumbai; Viswa-Bharati University, Santiniketan; Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur; Birla Institute of Technology and Science, (BITS), Pilani; Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai; International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad; Vidyanagari in Baramati.

Environmental Clearance to Irrigation Projects

*536. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation project proposals received from various States including Andhra Pradesh awaiting environmental clearance from the Union Government;

(b) the current status of these projects, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) During the last two years i.e. 2006 and 2007, 18 irrigation projects have been received in the Ministry for seeking environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of January, 1994 and of September, 2006. Out of these, 16 have been granted environmental clearance. As on date, only two projects namely Jihe Kathpur Lift Irrigation Scheme of Maharashtra and Dwarakeswar Irrigation Project of West Bengal are awaiting environmental clearance due to non-submission of information by the project authorities. No irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh is pending for environmental clearance.

(c) Decisions for clearance of proposals are taken

based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects, which holds regular monthly meetings to examine the cases. The EIA Notification, 2006 provides for a time limit of 105 days for taking decision after receipt of complete information from the project proponent.

Eco-City Programme

*537. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of Eco-city programme undertaken by the Government;

(b) whether any feedback has been received on the implementation of the Project in the selected towns of the country including Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Eco-City Project was initiated by the Central Pollution Control Board during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in selected towns/cities, namely, Tirupati, Puri, Ujjain, Kottayam, Thanjavur and Vrindavan with a view to improving the environment in the core areas of these towns/cities through implementation of identified environmental improvement projects. The Programme has been continued during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period with inclusion of three more towns/cities, namely, Chanderi, Sawai Madhopur and Darjeeling.

(b) to (d) The concerned Urban Local Bodies and the State Pollution Control Boards are associated in the planning of projects for environmental improvement under the programme. The status of the implementation of projects is reviewed on a periodic basis in the selected towns/cities in the respective States, including in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the programme, based on the review undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board, it has been decided to focus the programme on thrust areas like waste water treatment, solid waste management, bio-medical waste management, plastic waste management etc. in the identified towns/cities in place of the area based activities planned initially under the Eco-city programme.

Joint Ventures for Coal Mining

*538. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal production by Coal India Limited (CIL) is sufficient to meet the demand in the country;

(b) if not, whether the CIL proposes for any joint venture projects for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies with which joint-venture projects are proposed to be set up; and

(d) the other steps, including acquisition of coal mines abroad proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) is the major producer of coal in India. The total coal production in India during 2007-08 was 456.37 Million Tonnes (MTs.), out of which CIL produced 379.49 MTs. i.e. about 83% of all India production. Major part of coal demand in the country is met from indigenous sources. However, as there is limited availability of coking coal and low ash non-coking coal. many consumers import coal as per their requirement.

The Working Group on Coal and Lignite for formulation of Eleventh Five Year Plan has assessed all India coal demand at 731.10 MTs. and has projected all India coal production at 680.00 MTs. [CIL-520.50 MTs., Singareni Collieries Co. Limited (SCCL)—40.80 MTs. and others—118.70 MTs.] by the terminal year of

XI Five Year Plan i.e. 2011-12. This leaves a gap of 51.10 MTs. (40.85 MTs. of coking coal and 10.25 MTs. of thermal coal) which will be met through import of coal.

Details of Joint Venture (JV)/Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) proposals of CIL and its subsidiaries under consideration for coal mining are as under:—

1. CIL and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for coal block development and power generation: An MoU has been signed with NTPC on 15-3-2007 for development of Coal Blocks including Brahmani and Chichro-Patsimal coal blocks and power project.
2. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) and HINDALCO for development of Talabira opencast project.
3. MCL, Jindal Group companies and Shyam DRI Power Limited for development of Gopal Prasad-Uttkal A block.
4. Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) with NLC— for setting-up a 1000 MW TPS and coal mining at Block B.
5. CIL, Steel Authority of India (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC): Government has approved participation of CIL in a Joint Venture Company with SAIL, RINL, NMDC and NTPC to acquire coal mines in foreign countries pertaining to metallurgical and low ash thermal coal.

The Government has taken following measures to meet the demand of coal:

- (i) CIL, its subsidiary companies and SCCL are augmenting coal production by introducing high capacity shovels and dumpers, mechanization of underground coal mines and by taking up new coal projects.

- (ii) A large number of coal blocks has been allocated to augment indigenous availability of coal.

Funds for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries

*539. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals from the State Governments including West Bengal for financial assistance for 'development of Parks/Sanctuaries' are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the financial assistance sought for the projects, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to increase the assistance for the States including West Bengal under the said Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Based on the Annual Plan of Operations received, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments including West Bengal for the conservation and development of National Parks and Sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Assistance for Development of National Park and Sanctuaries". Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of necessary procedural requirements. During the current financial year i.e. 2008-09, no proposals have been received under the Scheme from the State/UT Governments.

(d) and (e) During the current financial year i.e.

2008-09, allocation under the Scheme has been increased to Rs. 80.00 crores from Rs. 62.00 crores during last financial year i.e. 2007-08. However, there is no fixed State-wise allocation.

National Mental Health Programme

*540. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of the National Mental Health Programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the areas to be covered under the programme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any assistance to the States for the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) during the Xlth Five Year Plan and provide assistance under various components of the Programme as grant in aid to the States as under:—

- (i) District Mental Health Programme to be expanded to all the districts in the country in a phased manner for organizing community mental health services including school life skills education and counselling, college counselling service, work place stress management and suicide prevention services.
- (ii) Establishment of Regional Institutes of Mental Health and Neuro sciences by upgrading identified existing mental health institutions in the country.

- (iii) Modernisation of existing Government Mental Hospitals.
- (iv) Upgradation of psychiatric wings of Government Medical colleges/General hospitals as spill over of 10th Plan schemes.
- (v) Establishment of State Mental Health Cell for monitoring of NMHP in the States.

(Rs. in lacs)

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
252	295	329

It is also proposed to include under National Mental Health Programme IEC activities, active participation of NGOs, Research and Training and establishment of a Central Cell for monitoring implementation of the Programme.

[Translation]

Funds Released for Youth and Sports Development

5123. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released to Rajasthan for youth and sports development programme during the last three years, till date;

(b) the proposals submitted by the Rajasthan State to the Union Government in this regard and the action taken thereto;

(c) the activities undertaken by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and its centres in Rajasthan;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open more SAI centres in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the facilities to be provided in these SAI centres for promotion of sports in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):
 (a) This Ministry has released Grant-in aid to State Government and various organizations in Rajasthan during last three years as under:—

in addition to above, the Ministry release funds to Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under this Ministry, for implementation of various programmes such as, Sports Scholarship Scheme, School Games and Rural Sports Programme in different States including Rajasthan. Funds are also released to Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), another autonomous body of this Ministry, for conducting various programmes such as, National Service Volunteer Scheme, Rashtriya Sadbhavna yojna and other programmes in different States all over the country including Rajasthan. The position showing the expenditure incurred/funds released under the schemes implemented by SAI and NYKS is given in statement.

(b) A total number of 313 proposals under the Youth Schemes were received from State Government and various organizations in Rajasthan during last three years. Out of which 124 proposals were considered in this Ministry.

In addition, 4 proposals from Government of Rajasthan for establishing new S.T.Cs. in Rajasthan at Bhitwara, Vidya Nagar, Jaipur and Rajasthan University were received in SAI and out which one proposal was considered.

(c) Sports Authority of India adopted 12 centres under the SAI Training Centre (STC)/Special Area Games (SAG) Schemes to give wider coverage in Rajasthan. The aim of the centers is to impart scientific training to meritorious and talented sports persons of the age group of 14 to 21 years.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to open new SAI Training Centers in Rajasthan. However, SAI has already adopted 12 Schools and Colleges covering 7 sports disciplines, viz. Basketball, Hockey, Football, Athletics, Volleyball, Kabaddi and Handball for providing training to 189 sportspersons in Rajasthan.

Statement

*Status position of funds released to Rajasthan State for the last three years
i.e. from 2005-06 to 2007-08 under the following sports schemes*

Scheme	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Remarks
All India Rural Sports Sports Tournament	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Rs. 75,75,000/- (75%)	Balance 25% will be released after the receipt of Utilisation certificate for the year 2007-08
National Sports Festival for Women	Proposal not received	Proposal not received	Proposal for Rs. 2,48,200/- received	Funds could not be released due to non receipt of refund amounting to Rs. 2,48,200/- for the year 2003-04
Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools	Proposal not received	No funds released as the proposal received was not as per the norms of the scheme	Proposal received but not as per norms of the scheme. The State Government has been requested to modify the proposal and re-submit the same.	

Statement showing category-wise and year-wise number and amount of Scholarships awarded to Rajasthan during the last three years

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Category	2005-06 No. and Amount	2006-07 No. and Amount	2007-08 No. and Amount
1	2	3	4	5
1.	University/College Students (Fresh)	06 0.612	20 2.04	27 2.754
2.	University/College Students (renewal)	02 0.204	00	05 0.510

1	2	3	4	5
3. National level fresh (School students)		19 1.596	44 3.696	14 1.176
4. National level renewal (School students)		03 0.252	06 0.504	09 0.756
5. State level fresh (School students)		386 25.476	266 17.556	197 13.002
6. State level renewal (School students)		33 2.178	78 5.148	54 3.564
7. Women National Champions		00	00	02 0.360
8. Women doing NIS Diploma after MPEd		00	00	00
9. Women doing M. Phil/Ph.D. after MPEd		00	00	06 0.600
10. Talented Players		00	00	00
Total		449 30.318	414 28.944	314 22.722

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Regular Programme	NSV Stipend-TA and Training	Rashtriya Sadbhavna Yojna	Other Prog.	Total
1.	2005-06	68.62110	22.57276	16.77482	22.15000	130.11868
2.	2006-07	111.73560	32.48200	24.19200	23.90000	192.30960
3.	2007-08	102.00000	32.33300	23.80800	4.10000	162.24100

Expenditure on Participation in Sports Events Abroad

5124. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sports federations in India recognized by the International Olympic Association;

(b) the sports-wise and category-wise medals won by India at Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior level at

various international sports events during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has borne the expenditure incurred on the participation of sports persons in international sports events;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, event-wise; and

(e) If not, the nature by which Indian sports persons incur expenditure to participate in the international sports events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) The sports federations of any country are recognized by the Olympic Association of that country and not by International Olympic Committee. In India 35 federations are affiliated by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

which have voting rights. Another 38 federations are recognized by the IOA.

(b) The detail of medals won in international events by India, sports-wise and category-wise at Senior, Junior and Sub-junior level is being collected from the respective National Sports Federation and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) The Government gives financial assistance to the National Sports Federations participation of sportspersons/teams in international sport events as per their approved Long Term Development Plan. For participation in the international events not covered under their I.TDP, the NSF concerned has to make their own arrangements to meet the expenditure on such visits. The detail of assistance given to various National Sports Federations during the last three years is annexed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Fedration	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation, New Delhi	13.98	12.69	15.21
2.	All India Chess Federation, Chennai	78.94	112.46	239.94
3.	All India Karate-Do-Federation,	00.00	3.46	00
4.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi	13.43	19.15	17.24
5.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India, Keshavpuram, Delhi	07.00	15.49	9.00
6.	Amateur Handball Federation of India, Jammu and Kashmir	34.57	38.64	18.03
7.	Atya Patya Federation of India, Nagpur	12.00	15.50	8.50
8.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	00.00	0.00	Nil
9.	Basketball Federation of India, New Delhi	41.21	36.31	71.44
10.	Cycle Polo Federation of India, New Delhi	0	30.01	14.82

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Fencing Association of India, Patiala	43.78	45.70	6.61
12.	Gymnastics Federation of India, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	14.88	66.47	39.65
13.	Indian Body Building Federation	0	0.00	0
14.	Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association, New Delhi	36.50	21.23	43.52
15.	Indian Polo Association, New Delhi	01.10	1.55	2.11
16.	Indian Power lifting Federartion, New Delhi	15.00	8.50	11.50
17.	Judo Federation of India, New Delhi	64.66	48.62	92.23
18.	Kho-Kho Federation of India, New Delhi	12.00	2.00	00
19.	Korfball Federation of India, New Delhi	09.00	12.50	13.50
20.	All India Tennis Association, New Delhi	77.45	90.07	92.63
21.	National Rifle Association of India, New Delhi	433.43	373.19	717.24
22.	Netball Federation of India, Sahadara, Delhi	11.50	9.50	14.99
23.	Roller Skating Federation of India, Kolkata	09.00	0.00	0
24.	Rowing Federation of India, Secunderabad	51.65	9.75	65.20
25.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India, Nagpur, Maharashtra	10.50	13.00	11.95
26.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	00.00	0.00	0
27.	Softball Federation of India, Jodhpur	9.80	12.00	9.00
28.	Squash Racket Federation of India, Chennai	15.42	21.94	11.37
29.	Swimming Federation of India, Ahmadabad	53.33	13.59	84.14
30.	Table Tennis Federation of India, New Delhi	165.10	178.75	332.97
31.	Taekwondo Federation of India, Bangalore	00.00	0.00	0
32.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India, New Delhi	11.00	13.00	9.00
33.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India, Gorakhpur Uttar Pradesh	17.00	11.50	8.00
34.	Tug of War Federation of India, New Delhi	11.50	20.75	3.50

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Volleyball Federation of India, Chennai	94.97	58.17	104.81
36.	Yachting Association of India, New Delhi	141.30	78.40	117.91
37.	Wushu Association of India, New Delhi	07.10	13.50	11.41
38.	Throwball Federation of India, Bangalore	09.00	0.00	19.82
39.	Para Olympic, Bangalore	13.50	33.34	219.19
40.	Archery Association of India, New Delhi	51.75	96.48	81.67
41.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India, Kolkatta	28.57	16.13	33.49
42.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation, New Delhi	142.74	81.79	154.76
43.	Indian Hockey Federation, Patel Nagar, Delhi	96.46	92.09	125.18
44.	Indian Women Hockey Federation, New Delhi	78.81	111.64	191.65
45.	Indian Amateur Kabaddi Federation, Jaipur	24.69	13.95	25.68
46.	Indian Weightlifting Federation, New Delhi	51.41	3.28	0
47.	Athletics Federation of India, New Delhi	227.95	86.83	233.19
48.	Badminton Association of India, Rajasthan	271.94	117.65	199.75
49.	Equestrian Federation of India, New Delhi	31.20	29.06	61.99
50.	Football, Delhi	70.37	30.55	68.15
51.	Indian Golf Union, New Delhi	37.84	23.65	56.64
52.	Wrestling Federation of India, I.G. Stadium Delhi	209.82	32.58	6.15
53.	Winter Games Federation of India, (WGFI), Daryaganj	12.51	1.65	0
54.	Women's Cricket Federation of India, Delhi	00	1.00	1.87
55.	Cycling Federation of India, Delhi	11.73	1.00	27.91
56.	Special Olympic Bharat, New Delhi	0.00	4.50	87.22
57.	Indian Olympic Association, New Delhi	28.53	538.10	244.28
58.	Sports Authority of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi	950.00	500.00	1700.00
59.	Malkhamb			03.75

Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan

5125. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to launch Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of basic sports infrastructure and sports activities proposed to be provided under the scheme at the village and block level Panchayat; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated under the Scheme during the year 2008-09 and the Eleventh Five Year Plan as whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan, which aims at creation of basic sports infrastructure at grassroots level, in all panchayats of the country, in a phased manner during 11th and 12th Five year Plan periods and organizing sports competitions at village, block and district levels.

Under the Scheme, each Village Panchayat and each Block Panchayat, would be given onetime seed capital grant of Rs. 1 lakh, and Rs. 5 lakh, respectively. The state contribution in this will be 25% for normal states, and 10% for Special Category States. In addition, while village panchayats would be given annual equipment acquisition grant, and annual operational grant of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 per annum, respectively, block panchayats would be given Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 24,000, respectively.

Each block panchayat, would also be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 50,000, for holding block level competitions. Each district will be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 3 lakh, for holding district level competitions. Further, prize money would also be provided to the winners (first three positions), in block level and district level competitions.

(d) An amount of Rs. 125.00 crore has been allocated under this scheme for the year 2008-09 and an amount of Rs. 1567.36 crore has been allocated for the 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Projects/Schemes for N-E States to be funded under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources

5126. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects/schemes from each of the N-E States proposed to be funded from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, till date;

(b) the details of the schemes/projects approved/accepted by the Government, State-wise;

(c) the status of funds released/to be released; and

(d) the progress of work executed on the projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The North Eastern States propose projects/schemes for funding under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) in their annual priority lists. The State-wise details of projects/schemes proposed by North Eastern States under NLCPR in their 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 priority lists is available on Ministry's website www.mdoner.gov.in.

(b) to (d) The State-wise details of projects/schemes retained from the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 priority lists is also available on the Ministry's website www.mdoner.gov.in. Under NLCPR the funds are released for a project only after its sanction/approval. The State-wise details of the projects sanctioned out of these retained projects, and funds released is given in the Statement. All the schemes are implemented by the State Governments and are at various stages of implementation.

Statement**A. Status of sanctioned projects/schemes retained from priority List 2005-06**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Approved Cost	Total Release
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	Road from NH-52A Nirjuli to Sagalee (SH: Doimukh to Toru-45 km.)	20.48	11.93
2.	Improvement/Construction road from Sagalee to Sakiang (50 km.)	39.94	24.26
3.	Improvement of Palizi-Thrizino Road (17 km.)	7.44	6.70
4.	Construction of Road from Pakke to Wai (18 km.)	13.35	4.21
5.	Improvement of Menga-Giba road (21 km.)	3.57	1.12
6.	C/o Motorable Road from Jengging to Ramsing III Upper Siang District.	5.37	3.69
Assam			
7.	Infrastructural Development of Assam Textile Institute (Retained in 35th meeting)	7.41	2.34
8.	Dhubri Water Supply Scheme	10.27	3.23
9.	Construction of 220/132 kV, 1x50 MVA, 1x25 MVA and 132/33 kV, 2x16 MVA Agia Sub-station	7.39	2.27
10.	Sibsagar Town Water Supply Scheme	16.39	5.00
11.	Cashew Processing Plant at Mankachar Assam	2.11	1.04
Manipur			
12.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Purul Sub Division HQ	4.29	1.32
13.	Augmentation of Kongthoujam Water Supply Scheme	8.86	2.74
14.	Construction of Bridge over Thoubal River at Thoubal near Babubazar	2.93	0.92
15.	Construction of bridge over Imphal river' at Kiyamgei Mang Mapa	4.71	1.48
16.	Construction of Bridge over Heirok river at Heirok Chingadompok	2.21	0.69
17.	Construction of bally suspension bridge over Barrak river on Tamenglong-Tousem-Haflong road	3.38	2.97

1	2	3	4
18.	Construction of 10 PHCs in valleys	7.86	2.42
19.	Construction of 32 PHSCs and hills and strengthening of equipments	5.45	1.65
20.	Construction of 18 PHSCs in valleys and strengthening of equipments	2.57	1.13
21.	Construction of Dharamshala, RIMS, Imphal	2.82	0.86
22.	Construction of District Veterinary Hospitals	7.49	2.31
Meghalaya			
23.	Construction of School Building of O.M. Roy Memorial School at Kynton Massar, Mawlai, Shillong	2.26	0.71
24.	Construction of Tikrikilla College Complex, West Garo Hills District	5.43	0.00
25.	Construction of School Building, Rymbai Poshkur Secondary School, Jaintia Hills	1.75	0.00
26.	Improvement, widening including metalling and blacktopping of Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Mouslei-Halflong Road (16 km.)	7.22	4.21
27.	Construction including metalling and black topping of Lumshnong-Umlong Road (0-8 km.)	6.02	1.90
28.	Construction including metalling and blacktopping of Mawkyrwat Rangblang Road (8 km.)	4.80	1.51
29.	Widening of road to double lane from Araimile to Dakopgre of Tura town (4 km.)	3.14	0.99
30.	Reconstruction of bridge over river Leiten (Bridge No-31/1) on Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Mawblei-Halflong Road	2.43	0.77
31.	Improvement including metalling and blacktopping of Mukhaialong Lumshymit road (19 km.)	9.11	2.87
32.	Construction of School Building, Ri-Bhoi Presbyterian Higher Secondary School, Nongphoh	3.65	0.00
33.	Construction of School Building, Mendipathar Secondary School, East Garo Hills	1.21	0.00
34.	Construction including metalling and blacktopping of a Road from Mushut to Lumputhoi via Rngad (12 km.)	4.87	1.53
35.	Widening of roads into double lane in Williamnagar town (8 km.)	15.13	1.98

1	2	3	4
Mizoram			
36.	Construction of Link road to proposed Bamboo Plantation Areas (From Saiphai to Hortoki)—0-27.50 km.	13.00	4.09
37.	Construction of Link Road to proposed Bamboo Plantation Areas (From Tuirial Airfield to Bukpui, Phase-1 (0-40 km.))	22.39	7.05
38.	Construction of Link Road to proposed Bamboo Plantation Areas (From Tuirial Airfield to Bukpui, Phase-2 (40-79 km.))	25.13	7.91
39.	Construction of Stadium at Aizawl and Champai (Indoor stadium at Champai sanctioned)	11.60	3.55
40.	Construction of Secondary Education School Buildings	9.69	5.94
41.	Lower Sakawrdai Augmentation Water Supply Scheme	1.34	0.41
42.	Construction of School Buildings (MADC)	2.12	0.67
43.	Construction of Bailey bridges	6.49	2.05
Nagaland			
44.	Dimapur-Khopanala-Jalukie-Peren Road (Substituted with Kukidolung-Heningkonglwa-Jalukie-Peren Road)	36.73	33.06
45.	Construction of Tsurang Irrigation	16.93	5.26
46.	Construction of road from Old Phek via Khuza to Satakha (Length-90.80 kms.)	29.17	25.49
47.	Improvement and Up-gradation of road from Longkhum via Mangmetong-Aliba	17.81	15.56
48.	Setting up of State Archive at Kohima	4.31	1.36
49.	Up-gradation and modernization of 7 (seven) I.T.I. (3 Nos. retained)	2.19	1.97
Sikkim			
50.	Water Supply Scheme from Ringyang and Chamkamey under Soreng Sub-Division, West Sikkim	8.75	4.76
51.	Construction of 132 kv Single circuit transmission line to Nathula with LILO arrangement at Bulbulay	31.01	9.08
52.	Synchronization of Rimbi Stage-I, Stage-II and Kalez HEP to Common 11 kv grid and further to 66 kv State grid	9.62	6.06
Tripura			
53.	Widening and strengthening of Banikya Chowmuhani—Shalbagan road (9.00 km.)	4.77	4.19

1	2	3	4
54.	Infrastructure development of Tripura Engineering College	12.24	2.68
55.	Upgradation of Buildings of 150 High Schools	28.11	17.29
56.	Upgradation of Buildings of 100 Higher Secondary Schools	45.41	27.36
57.	Water Supply Scheme at Jatanbari-Nutanbazar (0.65 MGD)	5.21	1.64
58.	Water Supply Scheme at Bishalgarh (1.00 MGD)	7.81	2.46
Total		605.14	290.64

B. Status of Sanctioned Projects/Schemes retained from Priority List 2006-07

Arunachal Pradesh

1.	C/o road from Nafra to Nakhu and Nachiban in West Kameng District (11 km.)	7.54	2.38
2.	C/o 33 KV Express line from Tawang to Lumla with 33/11 KV, 2x1.6 MVA sub station at Lumla	6.22	3.96
3.	C/o road from Jop to Silsango in Lower Subansiri District (30 km.)	34.50	10.87
4.	C/o road from Nyorak to Rime Moku village in West Siang District (20 km., Ph-I-9.20 km.)	9.90	2.84
5.	Construction of Road from NH 52 'A' to Pappu Hill Settlement (2 km.)	3.99	1.26
6.	Upgradation of medical equipments at R.K Mission Hospital, Itanagar	4.08	3.66
7.	Construction of Motorable Suspension Bridge over river Siang between BRTF road and Komsing village (Span 225 m) at Sangam point in East Siang District	18.34	5.78
8.	Providing/Augmentation of Water Supply facilities to all the administrative HQs. and its villages under 14-Doimukh Assembly Constituency	12.77	4.00
9.	Infrastructure Development of the School (C/o Hostel Building of JNK School) run by Arunachal Welfare and Education Society located at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. (Additional proposal of JNK School Building)	1.57	0.50
10.	Infrastructure Development of the School (Construction of JNK School Building) run by Arunachal Welfare and Education Society located at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	3.10	0.98
11.	Opening of Ramakrishna Sarada Mission School for girls at Khaso (Dirang)	5.88	1.85
12.	Development of Shantideva Vidyalaya, Borndila Monastery	2.97	0.94
13.	C/o road from Sille to Yagrung village in East Siang District (10 km.)	5.01	1.5

1	2	3	4
Assam			
14.	Construction of Joising Doloi Auditorium Hall at Diphu	3.79	1.12
15.	Golaghat Town Water Supply Scheme—Phase II	5.05	1.53
16.	Construction of Indoor stadium at Silchar	4.94	1.40
17.	Construction of Academic cum Administrative Building of K.K. Handique Government Sanskrit College	2.38	0.93
18.	Development of Jorhat Stadium at Jorhat	2.69	0.85
19.	Construction of 220/132 kV, 2x50 MVA and 220/33 kV, 2x40 MVA Azara Sub-station with 220 kV LILO line at Azara from one circuit of 220 kV D/C Agia-Sarusajai line alongwith construction of 132 kV S/C line to Boko with terminal bay at 132/33 kV Boko Sub-station	36.22	11.41
20.	Creating irrigation Facilities by Micro Distributary System at Dakhindol in (Sonitpur)	2.11	0.67
21.	Belsiri Lift Irrigation Scheme	2.17	0.68
22.	Construction of Road and Minor bridge from Motinagar to Bhuban Hill temple-Phase-I	3.26	1.02
23.	Upgradation of Dalgaoon Town to Sialmari via Dhekerigaon, Kharpurihabi Road (MTBT) in Darrang District	2.52	1.14
24.	Construction of Sankar Madhav Cultural Complex at Leteku pukhuri, Bhogpur Chairali Lakhimpur	4.01	1.26
25.	Infrastructural facilities at Kharupetia College-Construction of Building for Classrooms, Computer Laboratory with AC, Hostels for trainees, electricity facilities, water supply and sanitary facilities installation	1.76	0.00
26.	Improvement of Dalgaoon Kopti Road (Orang-Dalgaoon Road)	2.36	1.02
27.	Improvement of Batabari-Kopti Road	2.14	0.95
28.	Upgradation of Nagaon Barapujia Road	2.98	0.94
29.	Improvement of Nagaon Moriklong Nогоi Dakhinpat Road	1.99	0.87
30.	Construction of Cultural Centre Complex at Dotoma	2.21	0.99
31.	Construction of road from Bhangapar to Chandranathpur via Babur Bazar	2.49	0.80
32.	Development and Upgradation of Jyoti Chitranab Film and Television Institute	13.47	4.24

1	2	3	4
33.	Bodoland Indigenous Tribal Art and Cultural Complex cum Film Studio	4.95	1.61
34.	Improvement of Road from Nazirakhat to Sonapur	2.65	1.08
35.	Improvement of Roads in Jorhat Town	2.50	0.96
36.	Integrated Road Development Project for Sibsagar Town	2.42	1.08
37.	Remodelling of LIS over river Buridihing in Sassoni Mouza in Dibrugarh District	2.40	0.78
38.	LIS from river Buridihing in Tengakhat Kheremia Mouza in Dibrugarh District	2.92	0.92
39.	Improvement of Road from Kahilipara to Don Bosco School	2.52	1.13
40.	Improvement of Rampur Model Road (starting from NH 37)	2.25	0.71
41.	Metalling and Blacktopping of Swapanpur to Ramchandi	3.80	1.20
42.	Construction of RCC major bridge at 7th km. of Kathal Road over river Ghagra	2.50	0.79
Manipur			
43.	Establishment of National Sports Academy at Khuman Lampak, Imphal	18.43	5.81
44.	Augmentation of water supply at Tungjol, Sanapati	2.16	0.68
45.	Improvement of Jiri-Tipaimukh Road (6.00 to 60.00 km.), Jiribam (E) and Churachandpur	18.56	5.73
46.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Unopat and surrounding areas, Chandel	2.97	0.00
47.	Improvement of Lamsang-Khongampat Road	2.68	0.85
Meghalaya			
48.	Nongpoh Urban Water Supply Scheme	17.47	5.50
49.	Improvement, widening, Strengthening including Metalling and black-topping of a road from 9th Mile of NH-37 (Guwahati-Shillong road) to Killing-Pilangkata (6-00 km.)	3.13	0.99
Mizoram			
50.	Construction of 132 kV single circuit Line from Khawzawi to Champai	5.90	4.56
51.	Upgradation of Parva to Simenasora Road	12.26	3.78

1	2	3	4
52.	Construction of 33 KV D/C Transmission line (Tower type) Lawngtlai to Saiha Nagaland	7.43	2.30
53.	Construction of road from Hazadisa-Intangki	7.27	2.21
54.	The establishment of a North East Expo Centre at Dimapur	9.86	3.07
55.	Integated Ngulki irrigation Project	2.37	0.73
56.	Augmentation of water supply at Chen EAC H.Q. Chenwatnyu Village Sikkim	3.00	0.86
57.	Namchi to Samdruptse Ropeway, South Sikkim	16.04	5.05
58.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Sang Naya Bazaar, East Sikkim	2.01	0.62
59.	Greater Rangpo Water Supply Scheme, East Sikkim	17.00	14.85
60.	Construction of water Harvesting structure at Rabdentse, Geyzing in west Sikkim	4.96	1.45
61.	Development of Village tourism at (a) Chirbirey, (b) Zoom and (c) Majigaon River Bank Tripura	17.08	5.28
62.	Water Supply Scheme at Melaghar	8.86	2.79
63.	Transmission Scheme including Bodhjangnagar Industrial Estate	9.37	2.95
Total		432.13	152.74

C. Status of sanctioned projects/schemes retained from priority List 2007-08

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Approved Cost	Total Release
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	C/o road from Dumporijo to Hali (45 km.)	31.76	9.81

1	2	3	4
2.	Construction of Satnaguri to Longding road via Kanubari, Banfera, Wanu and Zedua (Phase-I)—(15.50 km.)	5.66	1.75
Assam			
3.	Augmentation of Transformer Capacity of 132/33 kv Panchagram Sub-station from 2x16 MVA to 2x25 MVA in Cachar District	4.40	1.39
4.	Construction of RCC Bridge No. 1/1 on river Santijan on Srimanta Sankardeva Govesona Kendra Road including approaches and protection work in Nagaon District.	2.81	0.88
5.	Construction of RCC Bridge No. 1/1 on Silairpar-Borshijhora (Dhubri District)	4.51	1.42
6.	Belguri Satrasai Road, Bridge No. 4./1 (Dhubri District)	2.73	0.86
7.	Construction of RCC Bridge 1/1 alongwith approaches on both side of River Pota on Hauzua Nalbari Road in Baska District	2.64	0.83
8.	Construction of 4 lane Tripura Road including electrical works from NH 37 Bye Pass to G.S. Road (Six Miles) via Jayanagar Chariali from Ch. 0.00 to 1650.00m in Kamrup, District.	11.36	3.59
Manipur			
9.	Modernisation of Kakching Ithel Maru Main Canal, Thoubal	3.41	0.00
Nagaland			
10.	Construction of Phek-Chazouba Road (MDR) 45 kms.	17.47	5.50
11.	Upgradation of road from Rusoma to Kijumetourna	21.85	6.85
Sikkim			
12.	Namachi-Assangthang road under South circle (5 km.)	6.00	1.89
13.	Rhenock Water Supply Scheme, East Sikkim	16.27	5.00
Total		130.87	39.77

Allowing of Hunting of Wild Animals

5127. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow hunting of certain wild animals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing population of certain wild animals in view of complaints of damage to crops by these wild animals especially in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Wildlife (Protection) Acts 1972 already provides for taking appropriate action to address such problems. As per Section 11 of the Act, the State Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorized officer may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal specified in Schedule-II, Schedule-III or Schedule-IV has become dangerous to human life or to property (including standing crops on any land) or is disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery, by order in writing and stating the reasons therefor, permit any person to hunt such animal or group of animals in a specified area or cause such animal or group of animals in that specified area to be hunted.

Basic Facilities to Gram Panchayats

5128. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the panchayats in the country have basic infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the panchayats located in Orissa;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide basic infrastructure facilities to the Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Provision for basic infrastructure for all the Panchayats is required to be made by the State Governments. Ministry of Panchayati Raj do not maintain the information in this regard at the Central level.

(d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj supplements the efforts of the States Governments in providing the assistance for infrastructure development under Infrastructure Development Component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana for construction/upgradation of the

Panchayat Ghars. During 2006-07 Ministry of Panchayati Raj had provided an amount of Rs. 10.50 crore and during 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 16.22 crores for construction/maintenance/upgradation under this Scheme. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Scheme, an amount of Rs. 250.00 crore per annum (@ Rs 1.00 crore per district) is earmarked for capability building of Panchayats with a provision of providing sufficient office infrastructure, including office buildings wherever required and connectivity to these offices through roads, telephones, power supply and e-connectivity.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Hospitals

5129. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:

SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether proposal for basic medical facilities and upgradation of maternity and child care hospitals in various-States including Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the Government is likely to approve the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) To improve the availability of basic medical facilities and Maternity and Child care services in states the Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The Mission seeks to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

Under NRHM an annual Programme Implemen-

tation Plan (PIP) is prepared by all states. The PIP for FY 2008-09 for all the states including Madhya Pradesh has already been appraised by the NPCC. Funding for various activities contained therein is released to the states in installments after factoring in the available unspent balance.

Road Accidents

5130. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Road Safety Council/ Planning Commission have assessed the social cost of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details of losses of lives and properties due to road accidents; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) The Working Group set up by Planning Commission in the year 2000 chaired by Shri Prakash Narain, Former Chairman, Railway Board had assessed the social cost of road accidents in the country in the year 1999-2000 at Rs. 55,000 crores, which constituted about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country for the year.

(b) As per the report by the States/UTs, the number of persons killed in the road accidents on All Roads during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (the latest available data) are as under:—

Year	Persons killed in Road Accidents
2004	92618
2005	94968
2006 (Provisional)	105749

The details regarding loss of properties due to road accidents are not compiled by this Ministry.

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this Department has taken several steps to improve road safety, which are given below:

- (i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/ Expressways.
- (ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (iv) Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for road safety activities by the Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.
- (v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (vii) Conferring of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.
- (viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme by Department of Road Transport and Highways. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km.

on each of its completed highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

- (x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

[English]

Restoration of Sanctuaries

5131. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO threatened to drop some of the sanctuaries in the country from its heritage list;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any direction to the State Governments for the restoration of these sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, out of the five natural Heritage Sites in India, Manas National Park is already in the category of 'Heritage Site in Danger' since 1992. It was placed in this category due to large scale disturbances and agitation during that period causing serious damage to the Park. The World Heritage Committee had also expressed serious concern over the situation resulting from inadequate availability of water to maintain the wetland ecosystem in Keoladeo National Park which is another World Heritage Site in India.

(c) and (d) The Union Government has been continuously in touch with both the State Governments, i.e., Assam with respect to Manas national Park and Rajasthan, with respect to Keoladeo National Park. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been providing financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for the better management of these sites. Further, an UNESCO funded project has been launched in 2007, for better management at four natural world heritage sites in India including Manas and Keoladeo.

(e) Does not arise.

Educational Disparity in the Country

5132. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Applied Manpower Research has conducted a study to capture the educational disparity of different districts across six States including the Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the study report;

(c) the extent to which the Government has accepted the suggestions of the report; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to improve the poor record of access to schools in these States including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) As per information received from Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), a study to develop an Educational Development Index (EDI) at district level has been conducted in six States including Karnataka. The final report of this study is not yet completed.

Registration of Medical Labs with QCI

5133. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical laboratories in the country need to register themselves with the Quality Council of India (QCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The registration of medical laboratories in the country is not mandatory and Quality Council of India (QCI), do not register medical

laboratories. The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) set up under the QCI, undertakes accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories which includes medical laboratories. However, accreditation is a voluntary process wherein laboratories apply for accreditation for assessment against International Standards.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Condition of NH-43

5134. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI TUKRAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the condition of the National Highway-43 is very bad resulting in a number of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the number of accidents that took place on the National Highway during the last three years;

(c) the details of the maintenance works undertaken on National Highway-43 during the last three years; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent therefrom during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. National Highway-43 is in traffic worthy condition. Data on accidents are not being maintained National Highway wise. However, some accidents on NH-43 have been reported due to drivers' fault, mechanical failures and due to negligence of traffic rules.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, maintenance and improvement works under periodical renewal, strengthening of pavement, improvement of riding quality as well as ordinary/flood damage repairs have been undertaken on NH-43 at an estimated cost

of Rs. 73.82 crores, against which Rs. 59.41 crores have been spent.

[English]

Effect of Tea/Coffee Consumption on Human Health

5135. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the effect of consumption of Tea/Coffee on human health;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to create awareness among the people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Studies have been conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad on tea which is a polyphenol-rich beverage. Catechins are its chief polyphenols which have cardio-protective effects as they can scavenge free radicals and inhibit lipid peroxidation. Epidemiological studies indicate an inverse relation between tea consumption and the risk of cardiovascular and other chronic diseases. Consumption of tea with milk showed beneficial effects such as improved antioxidant status of subjects and decreased plasma and urinary oxidative stress similar to consumption of tea without milk. These results suggest that addition of milk may not obviate the ability of black tea to modulate the antioxidant status of subjects and that consumption of black tea with/without milk prevents oxidative damage in vivo. As per ICMR no such study on effect of coffee consumption has been conducted.

(c) Various measures such as Health Melas, Health Awareness Camps and dissemination of relevant information, education and communication about Health Care System have been undertaken for awareness among the people about health sector hazardous and its reforms.

[Translation]

Status of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra

5136. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in respect of "Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra" proposed in 2004;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned and spent so far for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the said Kendra is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The land for construction of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra (PBK) has been procured and registered. National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC) has been appointed as Consultant and Project Manager for the PBK to carry out the project on turnkey basis from its concept to completion. The concept design and model of the Kendra has been approved. So far the expenditure incurred is Rs. 55 Lakhs towards the cost of land since construction is yet to commence. The construction is expected to commence in the current financial year as soon as the approvals for the building plans are received from the civic authorities and the Delhi Urban Arts Commission. The building is expected to be ready before the commencement of the ensuing Commonwealth Games in October, 2010.

Held up Coal Mining Operations

5137. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining operations in about 100 coal blocks including that of Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal etc. States are held up;

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

(c) the names of the companies allotted the said coal blocks alongwith the date of allotment company-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take back the allotted coal blocks from these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) Till March, 2008 a total of 182 coal blocks have been allocated, out of which a total of 39 blocks were allocated upto year 2003 and remaining 143 blocks were allocated after year 2003. Since development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3-4 years, most of the allocated blocks are still in the development phase. In so far as 39 blocks allocated upto year 2003 are concerned, 13 blocks have already started production and the remaining 25 coal blocks are expected to start production by the year 2009-10. In case of 1 coal block, mining lease has been declared void. These blocks have not come to production due to time taken in obtaining mining lease, forest clearance, environmental clearance, acquisition of land etc. As per the guidelines, coal production from captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If the captive coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report. Details of the names of coal blocks, date of allocation, names of companies, state of location and status of production of the allocated blocks till March, 2008 is given in statement.

(d) and (e) The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquiring land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both the mining as well as end-use project. Specific milestones are laid down for development of coal blocks. This is monitored and reviewed periodically by a Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Coal). In case of wilful delays, notices are issued, and where warranted, de-allocation of coal blocks is considered.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of Block allocated	Coal field	Date of Allotment	Name of the allocatee	Production Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Tadicherla-I	SCCL	06-12-2005	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Yet to start production
2.	Anestupali	SCCL	20-02-2007	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Do
3.	Punkuta-Chilka	Godavari Valle	20-02-2007	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Do
4.	Penagaddppa	SCCL	29-05-2007	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corpn. Ltd.	Do
Arunachal Pradesh					
1.	Namchik Namphuk	NEC	28-07-1994	Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Dev. Corporation	Do
Chhattisgarh					
1.	Gare-Palma-IV/1	Mand Raigarh	20-06-1996	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Producing
2.	Gare-Palma-IV/5	Mand Raigarh	21-06-1996	Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	Producing
3.	Gare-Palma-IV/2	Mand Raigarh	01-07-1998	Jindal Power Ltd.	Producing
4.	Gare-Palma-IV/3	Mand Raigarh	01-07-1998	Jindal Power Ltd.	Producing
5.	Gare-Palma-IV/4	Mand Raigarh	16-08-1999	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Producing
6.	Gare-Palma-IV/7	Mand Raigarh	25-04-2000	Raipur Alloys and Steel Ltd.	Yet to start production

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Tara	Hasdoe-Arand	14-08-2003	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Yet to start production
8.	Chotia	Hasdoe-Arand	04-09-2003	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Producing
9.	West of Umaria (de-allocated)	Umaria	24-05-2004	Garuda Clays Ltd.	Yet to start production
10.	Gidhmuri	Hasdoe-Arand	23-09-2004	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Do
11.	Patoria	Hasdoe-Arand	23-09-2004	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Do
12.	Panchbahani (De-allocated)	Hasdoe-Arand	06-09-2005	Shree Radhe Industries	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Akshya Investment Pvt. Ltd.	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Chhattisgarh Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Chhattisgarh Electricity Corporation Ltd.	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	MSP Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
13.	Madanpur South	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Chhattisgarh Captive Coa Mining Ltd. (Consortium of five Co.)	Do
14-15.	Nakia I + Nakia II	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Ispat Godavari	Do
14.-15	Nakia I + Nakia II	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Ind Agro Synergy	Do
14-15.	Nakia I + Nakia II	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Shri Nakoda Ispat	Do
14-15.	Nakia I + Nakia II	Hasdoe-Arand	13.01.2006	Vandana Gobel Ltd.	Do
14-15.	Nakia I + Nakia II	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Shree Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd.	Do
16.	Gare Palma IV/6	Mand Raigarh	13-01-2006	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd	Do

16.	Gare Palma IV/6	Mand Raigarh	13-01-2006	Nalwa Sponge Iron Ltd.	Do
17.	Gare Palma IV/8	Mand Raigarh	13-01-2006	Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Ultratech Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Singhal Enterprises	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Nav Bharat Coalfield Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Vandana Energy and Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Anjani Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Do
18.	Madanpur (North)	Hasdoe-Arand	13-01-2006	Chhattisgarh Captive Coal Mining Ltd. (Consortium of five Co.)	Do
19.	Parsa	Hasdoe-Arand	02-08-2006	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board.	Do
20.	Gare Pelma, Sector-I	Mand Raigarh	02-08-2006	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Do
21.	Gare Pelma Sector II	Mand Raigarh	02-08-2006	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn.	Do
21.	Gare Pelma Sector II	Mand Raigarh	02-08-2006	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	Do
22.	Morga-I	Hasdoe-Arand	02-08-2006	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited	Do
23.	Morga-II	Hasdoe-Arand	02-08-2006	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, Ahmedabad	Do
24.	Shankarpur Bhatgaon II	Bisrampur	25-07-2007	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Do
25.	Morga III	Hasdoe-Arand	25-07-2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corp. Ltd.	Do
26.	Morga IV	Hasdoe-Arand	25-07-2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corp. Ltd.	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Sondhia	Ramkola Tatapani	25-07-2007	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Yet to start production
28.	Parsa East	Hasdoe-Arand	25-06-2007	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	Do
29.	Kanta Basan	Hasdoe-Arand	25-06-2007	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	Do
30.	Brahampuri	Pench Kannan	16-07-2007	Pushp Steel and Mining Ltd.	Do
31.	Sayang	Mand Raigarh	06-11-2007	AES Chhattisgarh Energy Pvt. Ltd	Do
32.	Durgapur II/Sanya	Mand Raigarh	06-11-2007	DB Power Ltd.	Do
33.	Durgapur II/Taraimar	Mand Raigarh	06-11-2007	Balco	Do
34.	Fatehpur East	Mand Raigarh	23-01-2008	JLD Yavatmal Energy Ltd.	Do
34.	Fatehpur East	Mand Raigarh	23-01-2008	R.K.M. Powergen Pvt. Ltd.	Do
34.	Fatehpur East	Mand Raigarh	23-01-2008	Visa Power Ltd.	Do
34.	Fatehpur East	Mand Raigarh	23-01-2008	Green Infrastructure Pvt Ltd.	Do
34.	Fatehpur East	Mand Raigarh	23-01-2008	Vandana Vidyut Ltd.	Do
35.	Fatehpur	Mand Raigarh	06-02-2008	SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	Do
35.	Fatehpur	Mand Raigarh	06-02-2008	Prakash Industries Ltd.	Do
Jharkhand					
1.	Tasra	Jharia	26-02-1996	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Yet to start production
2.	Pachwara Central	Rajmahal	28-12-2001	Punjab State Electricity Board	Producing
3.	Tokisud North	South Karanpura	07-01-2002	GYK Power (Govindwal Sahib) Ltd.	Yet to start production

4.	Lalgarh (North)	West Bokaro	08-07-2005	Domco Smokeless Fuel Pvt. Ltd.	Do
5.	Kathautia	Daltonganj	29-09-2003	Usha Martin Ltd.	Do
6.	Badam	North Karanpura	03-11-2003	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	Do
7.	Pakri-Barwadih	North Karanpura	11-10-2004	National Thermal Power Corp.	Do
8.	Pachvara North	Rajmahal	26-04-2005	West Bangal Power Dev. Corp. Ltd.	Do
9.	Moitra	North Karanpura	13-05-2005	Jayaswal Neco Ltd	Do
10.	Brinda	North Karanpura	26-05-2005	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Do
11.	Sasai	North Karanpura	26-05-2005	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Do
12.	Meral	North Karanpura	26-05-2005	Abhijeet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Do
13.	Parbatpur-A to C	Jaharia	07-07-2005	Electrosteel castings Ltd.	Do
14.	Kotre-Basantpur	West Bokaro	11-08-2005	Tata Iron and Steel Company	Do
15.	Pachmo	West Bokaro	11-08-2005	Tata Iron and Steel Company	Do
16.	Lohani	Daltonganj	24-08-2005	Usha Martin	Do
17.	Chitarpur	North Karanpura	02-09-2005	Corporate Ispat Ltd.	Do
18.	Mahal	Jharia	09-12-2005	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	Do
19.	North Dhadu	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Jharkhand Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Do
19.	North Dhadu	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Pavanjay Steel and Power Generation Pvt. Ltd.	Do
19.	North Dhadu	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Electrosteel castings Ltd.	Do
20.	Gondulipara	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Athunik Alloys and Power Ltd. Do	Do
20.	Gondulipara	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	Do
				Damodar Valley Corporation	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Dumri	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Nilachal Iron and Power Generation	Yet to start production
21.	Dumri	North Karanpura	13-01-2006	Bejrang Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Do
22.	Talaipali	Mand Raigarh	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corporation	Do
23.	Kerandari	North Karanpura	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corporation	Do
24.	Chatti Bariatu	North Karanpura	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corporation	Do
25.	Brahimni	Rajmahal	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corporation + Coal India Ltd. Joint Venture	Do
26.	Chichro Patsimal	Rajmahal	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corporation + Coal India Ltd. Joint Venture	Do
27.	Sugia Closed mine	Ramgarh	30-01-2006	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
28.	Rauta Closed mine	Ramgarh	30-01-2006	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
29.	Burakhap small patch	Ramgarh	30-01-2006	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
30.	Bundu	North Karanpura	25-04-2006	Rungta Mines Limited	Do
31.	Gomia	East Bokaro	02-08-2006	MMTC	Do
32.	Pindra-Debipur-Khaowatand	East Bokaro	02-08-2006	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
33.	Sarla Koiyatand	East Bokaro	02-08-2006	Bihar Rajya Khanij Vikas Nigam	Do
34.	Jainagar	South Karanpura	02-08-2006	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, Ahmedabad.	Do

35.	Rajbar E and D	Auranga	02-08-2006	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	Do
36.	Banhardih	Patna	02-08-2006	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	Do
37.	Latehar	Auranga	02-08-2006	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
38.	Chakla	North Karanpura	20-02-2007	Essar Power Generation Ltd.	Do
39.	Jitpur	Chupperbita	20-02-2007	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
40.	Sitanala	Jharia	11-04-2007	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	Do
41.	Chhati Bariatu South	North Karanpura	25-07-2007	National Thermal Power Corporation	Do
42.	Saharpur Jamarpani	Rajmahal	25-07-2007	Damodar Vally Corporation	Do
43.	Urma Paharitora	Rajmahal	25-07-2007	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	Do
43.	Urma Paharitora	Rajmahal	25-07-2007	Bihar State Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	Do
44.	Patratu	South Karanpura	25-07-2007	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
45.	Rabodih OCP	West Bokaro	25-07-2007	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Do
46.	Kerandani BC	North Karanpura	20-07-2007	Power Finance Corporation Talaiy UMPP Jharkhand	Do
47.	Tubed	Auranga	01-08-2007	Hindalco	Do
47.	Tubed	Auranga	01-08-2007	Tata Power Ltd.	Do
48.	Ashok Karikatta Central	North Karanpura	06-11-2007	Essar Power Ltd.	Do
49.	Patal East	South Karanpura	06-11-2007	Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.	Do
50.	Seregarha	North Karanpura	09-01-2008	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	Do
50.	Seregarha	North Karanpura	09-01-2008	GVK Power (Govindwal Sahib) Ltd.	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
51.	Mahuagarhi	Rajmahal	09-01-2008	CESE Ltd.	Yet to start production
51.	Mahlagarhi	Rajmahal	09-01-2008	Jas Infrastructure Capital Pvt Ltd.	Do
52.	Amarkonda Murga-dangat	Birbhum	17-01-2008	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
52.	Amarkonda Murga-dangat	Birbhum	17-01-2008	Gagan Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Do
53.	Gotitoria (East)	Mahapani	21-06-1996	BLA Industries	Producing
54.	Gotitoria (West)	Mahapani	21-06-1996	BLA Industries	Producing
55.	Amelia	Singrauli	12-01-2006	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Yet to start production
56.	Amelia (North)	Singrauli	12-01-2006	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
57.	Mahan	Singrauli	12-04-2006	Essar Power Ltd.	Do
57.	Mahan	Singrauli	12-04-2006	Hindalco Industries	Do
58.	Dongeri Tal-H	Singrauli	02-08-2006	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
59.	Mara II Mahan	Singrauli	02-08-2006	Haryana Power General Corp.	Do
59.	Mara II Mahan	Singrauli	02-08-2006	NCT of Delhi, Delhi	Do
60.	Moher	Singrauli	13-09-2006	Power Finance Corporation Sasan (Ultra Mega Power Project)	Do
61.	Moher-Amfoni Extn.	Singrauli	13-09-2006	Power Finance Corporation Sasan (Ultra Mega Power Project)	Do

62.	Chhatrasal	Singrauli	26-10-2006	Power Finance Corporation Sasan (Ultra Mega Power Project)	Do
63.	Stal Ghoghri	Wardha	29-05-2007	Prism Cement Limited	Do
64.	Ravanwara Noth	Pench Kannan	29-05-2007	SKS Ispat Limited	Do
65.	Suithari	Singrauli	25-07-2007	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corp.	Do
66.	Marli Barka	Singrauli	25.07.2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
67.	Semaria/Piparia	Umaria	25-07-2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
68.	Sahapur East	Sohagpur	25-07-2007	National Mineral Dev. Corp	Do
69.	Sahapur West	So'hagpur	25-07-2007	National Mineral Dev. Corp	Do
70.	Bicharpur	Sohagpur	25-07-2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
71.	Mandla South	Pench Kannan	25-07-2007	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Do
71.	Mandla North	Pench Kannan	17-09-2007	M/s. Jaipraskash Associates Ltd.	Do
Maharashtra					
1.	Takli-Jena-Bellora (South)	Wardha	29-05-1998	Central Collieries Ltd. (cancelled)	Do
2.	Marli Mangli-I	Wardha	25-04-2001	B.S. Ispat	Do
3.	Chinora	Wardha	08-10-2003	Fieldmining and Ispat Ltd.	Do
4.	Warora (West) Southern Part	Wardha	08-10-2003	Fieldmining and Ispat Ltd.	Do
5.	Majra	Wardha	29-10-2003	Gondwana Ispat Ltd.	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Baranji-I	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
7.	Baranji-II	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
8.	Baranji-III	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
9.	Baranji-IV	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
10.	Kiloni	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
11.	Manora Deep	Wardha	10-11-2003	Karnataka Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
12.	Bhandak West	Wardha	27-11-2003	Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.	Do
13.	Belgaon	Wardha	28-03-2005	Sunflag Iron Steel Ltd.	Do
14.	Marki Mangji-II	Yavatmal	06-09-2005	Veerangana Steel Limited.	Do
15.	Marki Mangji-III	Yavatmal	06-09-2005	Veerangana Steel Limited.	Do
16.	Marki Mangji-IV	Yavatmal	06-09-2005	Veerangana Steel Limited.	Do
17.	Nerad Malegaon	Wardha	13-01-2006	Gupta Metalics and Power Ltd.	Do
17.	Nerad Malegaon	Wardha	13-01-2006	Gupta Coalfields and Washeries Ltd.	Do
18.	Marki-Zari-Jamani-Adkoli	Wardha	02-08-2006	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn.	Do
19.	Kosar Dongergaon	Wardha	20-02-2007	Chaman Metalics Ltd.	Do
20.	Warora West (North)	Wardha	20-02-2007	Bhatia International Ltd.	Do
21.	Agarzari	Wardha	25-07-2007	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn.	Do
22.	Warora	Wardha	25-07-2007	Maharashtra State Mining Corpn.	Do
23.	Lohara West Extn.	Wardha	06-11-2007	Adani Power Ltd.	Do

Orissa

1.	Talabira-I	IB Valley	25-02-1994	Hindalco	Producing
2.	Utkal-C	Talcher	29-05-1998	Utkal Coal Ltd. (formerly ICCL)	Yet to start production
3.	Utkal-B2	Talcher	16-08-1999	Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	Do
4.	Utkal B1	Talcher	29-09-2003	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
5.	Jamkhani	IB Valley	12-11-2003	Bhushan Ltd.	Do
6.	Utkal-D	Talcher	19-12-2003	Orissa Mining Corporation	Do
7.	Utkal 'E'	Talcher	27-08-2004	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	Do
8.	Talabira II	Talcher	10-11-2005	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Do
8.	Talabira II	Talcher	10-11-2005	Neyveli Lignite Corp. Ltd.	Do
8.	Talabira II	Talcher	10-11-2005	Hindalco	Do
9.	Utkal-A	Talcher	29-11-2005	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Do
9.	Utkal-A	Talcher	29-11-2005	JSW Steels Ltd./Jindal Thermal Power Ltd.	Do
9.	Utkal-A	Talcher	29-11-2005	Jindal Stainless Steel Ltd.	Do
9.	Utkal-A	Talcher	29-11-2005	Shyam DRI Ltd.	Do
10.	Bijahan	IB Valley	13-01-2006	Bhusan Ltd.	Do
10.	Bijahan	IB Valley	13-01-2006	Mahaveer Farro	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Bhusan Steel and Strips Ltd.	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Adhunik Metaliks Ltd.	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Deepak Steel and Power Ltd.	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Adhunik Corp. Ltd.	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd.	Yet to start production
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	SMC Power Generation Ltd.	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Sree Metaliks Ltd.	Do
11.	Patrapara	Talcher	13-01-2006	Visa Steel Ltd.	Do
12.	Dulanga	IB Valley	25-01-2006	National Thermal Power Corp. Ltd.	Do
13-14.	Mahanadi Machhakata	Talcher	06-02-2005	Gujarat State Electricity Comp. Ltd.	Do
13-14.	Mahanadi Machhakata	Talcher	06-02-2005	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	Do
15.	Radhikapur (East)	Talcher	07-02-2006	Tata Sponge Iron Ltd.	Do
15.	Radhikapur (East)	Talcher	07-02-2006	Scaw Industries Ltd.	Do
15.	Radhikapur (East)	Talcher	07-02-2006	SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.	Do
16.	Radhikapur (West)	Talcher	25-04-2006	Rungta Mines Limited	Do
16.	Radhikapur (West)	Talcher	25-04-2006	OCL India Ltd.	Do
16.	Radhikapur (West)	Talcher	25-04-2006	Ocean Ispat Ltd.	Do
17.	Nuagaon Telisahi	Talcher	02-08-2006	Orissa Mining Corporation	Do
17.	Nuagaon Telisahi	Talcher	02-08-2006	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development	Do
18.	Meenakshi	IB River	13-09-2006	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	Do
19.	Meenakshi B	IB River	13-09-2006	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	Do
20.	Dip side of Meenakshi	IB River	13-09-2006	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	Do

21-22.	Chendipada, Chendi-II	Talcher	25-07-2007	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	Do
21-22.	Chendipada, Chendi-II	Talcher	25-07-2007	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corp.	Do
21-22.	Chendipada, Chendi-II	Talcher	25-07-2007	Maharashtra Power Generation Corp.	Do
23.	Baitarni West	Talcher	25-07-2007	Kerala State Elec. Board	Do
23.	Baitarni West	Talcher	25-07-2007	Orissa Hydro Power Generation Corp.	Do
23.	Baitarni West	Talcher	25-07-2007	Gujarat Power Generation Corp.	Do
24.	Mandakini B	Talcher	25-07-2007	Assam Mineral Dev. Corp.	Do
24.	Mandakini B	Talcher	25-07-2007	Meghalaya Mineral Dev. Corp.	Do
24.	Mandakini B	Talcher	25-07-2007	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board, Chennai	Do
24.	Mandakini B	Talcher	25-07-2007	Orissa Mining Corporation	Do
25.	Manoharpur	IB Valley	25-07-2007	Orissa Power Generation Corporation	Do
26.	Dipside Manoharpur	IB Valley	25-07-2007	Orissa Power Generation Corporation	Do
27.	Nairni	Talcher	25-07-2007	Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation	Do
27.	Nairni	Talcher	25-07-2007	Pondicherry Industrial Promotion and Investment Corp. Ltd.	Do
28.	Mandakini	Talcher	09-01-2008	Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	Do
28.	Mandakini	Talcher	09-01-2008	Jindal Photo Ltd.	Do
28.	Mandakini	Talcher	09-01-2008	Tata Power Company Ltd.	Do
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	Sterfite Energy Ltd. (IPP)	Do

1	2	3	4	5	6
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	GMR Energy (IPP)	Yet to start production
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd. (CPP)	Do
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	Lanco Group Ltd. (IPP)	Do
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	Navbharat Power Pvt. Ltd. (IPP)	Do
29-30.	Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia	IB Valley	17-01-2008	Reliance Energy Ltd. (IPP)	Do
West Bengal					
1.	Sarisatolli	Ranigung	10-08-1993	RPG Industries/CESC Ltd.	Producing
2.	Tara (East)	Ranigung	14-07-1995	West Bengal State Electricity	Producing
3.	Tara (West)	Ranigung	17-04-1996	West Bengal Power Development Corp. Ltd.	Producing
4.	Gangaramchak	Kasta	23-06-2003	West Bengal Power Development Corp. Ltd.	Yet to start Production
5.	Barjora	Kasta	23-06-2003	West Bengal Power Development Corp. Ltd.	Do
6.	Gangaramchak-Bhadulia	Kasta	23-06-2003	West Bengal Power Development Corp. Ltd.	Do
7.	Trans Damodar	Damodar Raniganj	14-01-2005	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading Corp.	Do

8. Batjora (North)	Kasta	03-03-2005	Damodar Valley Corporation	Do
9. Kagra Joydev	Ranigung	03-03-2005	Damodar Valley Corporation	Do
10. Kasta (East)	Kasta	03-03-2005	Damodar Valley Corporation	Do
11. Ichhapur	Raniganj	02-08-2006	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Do
12. Kulti		02-08-2006	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Do
13. Biharinath	Raniganj	20-02-2007	Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Do
14. Jaganathpur A	Raniganj	25-07-2007	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Do
15. Jaganathpur B	Raniganj	25-07-2007	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Do
16. Ardhagram	Raniganj	06-12-2007	Sova Ispat Limited	Do
16. Ardhagram	Raniganj	06-12-2007	Jaibalaji Sponge Ltd.	Do
17. Sitarampur	Raniganj	27-12-2007	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Do

*[English]***Central Aid under Ten Per Cent Allocation**

5138. SHRI M.K. SHUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) The amount set aside by each Department/Ministry of the Union Government for the infrastructure, economic and social development of the North Eastern Region under the special scheme of ten per cent allocation by each Department/Ministry during the last three years, till date; and

(b) The achievement of the above scheme so far in the Infrastructure and social economic development of the people of NER in comparison with the rests of the States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A statement showing allocations by various Ministry/Departments to the North Eastern Region under the special scheme of ten per cent allocation during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is attached.

(b) The information is being collected.

Statement

Allocations by various Ministries/Departments for North Eastern Region in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08

Sl. No.	Ministry/Department	2005-06 (Rs. Cr.)	2006-07 (Rs. Cr.)	2007-08 (Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation	389.00	486.00	588.80
2.	Deptt. of Agriculture Research and Education	107.00	143.00	143.40
3.	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	87.15	89.50	—
4.	Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	59.90	75.00	81.00
5.	Deptt. of AYUSH	30.00	32.00	39.00
6.	Depratment of Biotechnology	—	—	68.30
7.	Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	5.50	13.10	20.90
8.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	7.92	11.68	20.02
9.	Ministry of Coal	25.50	30.00	16.70
10.	Deptt. of Commerce	129.44	142.33	150.50
11.	Deptt. of Consumer Affairs	9.12	15.01	13.38
12.	Ministry of Culture	40.00	40.00	47.00
13.	Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply	476.00	530.00	756.00

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Deptt. of School Education and Literacy	1053.50	1548.10	2058.39
15.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	110.00	141.65	140.00
16.	Deptt. of Fertilizers	14.00	10.00	4.49
17.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13.60	15.00	20.00
18.	Deptt. of Food and Public Distribution	6.00	10.73	6.21
19.	Deptt. of Health and Family Welfare	850.00	1000.00	1300.00
20.	Deptt. of Heavy Industry	40.60	45.09	84.29
21.	Ministry of Home	30.00	36.00	46.00
22.	Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion	55.00	50.00	89.99
23.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	55.83	97.04	63.02
24.	Deptt. of Information Technology	88.00	109.00	140.00
25.	Deptt. of Law and Justice	10.00	20.40	12.00
26.	Ministry of Labour and Employment	23.25	23.50	26.50
27.	Deptt. of Land Resources	132.00	134.00	134.85
28.	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	—	—	150.00
29.	Ministry of Mines	16.50	15.88	14.00
30.	Ministry of Minority Affairs	—	1.82	29.44
31.	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	35.00	43.10	62.80
32.	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	5.00	7.50	10.00
33.	Deptt. of Posts	22.29	20.91	50.36
34.	Ministry of Power	606.49	522.22	435.00
35.	Deptt. of Public Enterprises	3.00	3.15	1.00
36.	Railway Board*	386.01	449.60	554.86
37.	Deptt. of Road Transport and Highways	820.16	964.00	1072.24
38.	Deptt. of Rural Development	2092.35	2252.56	2590.00
39.	Deptt. of Higher Education	250.50	353.93	320.31

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Ministry of Shipping	40.00	57.50	57.50
41.	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	41.29	47.00	—
42.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	70.03	69.53	85.80
43.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	8.71	7.62	7.30
44.	Department of Telecommunications	—	14.90	25.00
45.	Ministry of Textiles	118.52	165.45	232.00
46.	Ministry of Tourism	79.00	80.00	96.00
47.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	33.00	44.00	50.30
48.	Deptt. of Urban Development	160.00	132.00	270.00
49.	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	40.00	50.00	50.00
50.	Ministry of Water Resources	50.00	55.02	58.39
51.	Deptt. of Women and Child Development	387.53	483.99	579.30
52.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	36.45	41.71	70.00
Grand Total		9150.14	10731.52	12941.34

Source: Expenditure Budget of Vol. 2 of 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 issued by Ministry of Finance.

*Figures of allocation by Railway Board.

Special Plan for KBK Districts of Orissa

5139. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the performance made under the Special Plan for KBK districts of Orissa in the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to increase the allocation under the said Scheme/Plan during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government has identified priority area for allocations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa is administered by the Planning Commission. Details of the financial performance of the KBK districts under the Special Plan in the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The eight KBK districts were entitled to an annual allocation of Rs. 250 crore during the Tenth Five Year Plan period under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana which has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme. The same annual allocation has been provided during the Eleventh

Five Year Plan, through the two streams of the BRGF, namely (a) the Special Plan of Rs. 130 crore per annum and (b) the districts component of Rs. 120 crore per annum. The Planning Commission have reported that there is no proposal to increase the allocation under the Special Plan.

(d) and (e) The Special Plan for the KBK districts is prepared by the State Government/District authorities, keeping in view the requirements of the region, and sent to the Planning Commission for approval. The priority areas for allocations under the Special Plan are, therefore, decided by the State Government.

Statement

Details of the Financial Performance under the Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Special Plan allocation	Funds released under Special Plan	Expenditure Reported*	Percentage of utilization
2005-06	250.00	250.00	245.59	98.24
2006-07	250.00	250.00	243.35	97.34
2007-08	130.00	130.00	102.92**	79.17

*Include unspent balance of previous years.

**Expenditure reported upto January, 2008.

Deaths Caused Due to Smoking

5140. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths caused due to smoking during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of various types of anti-smoking campaign targeting different age-groups carried out alongwith the cost incurred thereon;

(c) whether any Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the GoM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per report of Tobacco Control in India, 2004 approx. 8-9 Lakh persons die

annually due to tobacco attributable diseases. The year-wise data is not maintained.

(b) 'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' enacted in the year 2003 is intended to discourage the consumption of tobacco, the salient features of which are as under:—

- (i) prohibition of smoking in a public place;
- (ii) prohibition of direct and Indirect advertisement;
- (iii) prohibition of sale of tobacco products to minors;
- (iv) prohibition of sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions; and
- (v) mandatory depiction of specified pictorial health warnings on all tobacco product packs.

Government of India has also launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 18 districts of 9 states during the year 2007-08. The proposed National Programme broadly includes:—

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implement of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level Monitoring Cells.
2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of tobacco;
3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the government schools;
4. Mass Media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs; and
5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

An amount of Rs. 1.55 crore has been released to the states/districts for carrying forward the programme and an amount of Rs. 14.50 crores has been spent under IEC activities to disseminate ill effect of the tobacco products during the financial year 2007-08.

(c) and (d) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider the issue of Packaging and Labeling Rules for bidi bundles with specified health warnings. As per recommendations of GoM, the packaging and labeling rules 2008 have been notified vide GSR No. 182 dated 16th March, 2008. These rules shall come into force from the date to be notified separately.

Norms for Food and Health Care In Zoological Parks

5141. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms in respect of food and health care of animals in major zoological parks;
- (b) whether Government proposes to conduct any

scientific study in respect of food and healthcare of animals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to improve/review the norms relating to food and health care of the animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Existing "Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992" prescribe standards and norms for food and health care of zoo animals. It is mandatory for all the zoos in the country to comply with these rules.

(b) to (d) The Central Zoo Authority carries periodic inspection of the recognized zoos to ensure the compliance of standards and norms of animal healthcare and upkeep. In this connection it has also assigned two scientific studies viz. "Development of standard guidelines and protocols on disease, diagnosis and cure of wild animals of Indian Zoos" and "Development of feeding strategies for captive animals and standardization of feeding regime" to Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly in the year 2006 and 2007 respectively.

[Translation]

Cooperation between India and Israel In Space Research

5142. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Israel for cooperating with each other in the area of space research; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Israel Space Agency in 2003 on cooperation in the area of ultraviolet astronomy. A UV telescope namely TAUVEK, developed by an Israeli University, will be launched in GSAT-4 for the purpose of scientific observation.

**Harmful Contents in Tooth
Powder Eatables**

5143. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "4 Cigarette jitnee nicotine paaee gayee 1 gram dant manjan mein" as reported in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated January 21, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding mixing of harmful contents in toffees and chocolates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) Yes Sir. However, the Government has issued a notification GSR No. 444(E), dated 30-4-1992 prohibiting manufacture and

sale of ayurvedic drugs licensed as toothpaste, toothpowders containing tobacco.

(c) and (d) No such complaint has been received in respect of harmful content in toffees and chocolates. The standards of toffees and chocolates are prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955. These Rules also provide that tobacco and Nicotine shall not be used as an ingredient in any food products. Violation of provisions of PFA Rules, 1955 attracts penal action under PFA Act, 1954.

**Schemes/Programmes under Social Sector
during Eleventh Plan**

5144. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the physical target set out for various schemes/programmes under Social Sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the targets set out under various schemes/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) approved by the NDC has set monitorable targets as listed in the Statement-I. The importance given to social sector can be seen from the following sectoral outlays in the Eleventh Plan:

Sectoral Allocation—Eleventh Plan

(Rs. Crore at 2006-07 prices)

Sl.No.	Sectors	Eleventh Plan	
		Projected Allocation	% to Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Education	274,228	19.29

1	2	3	4
2.	Rural Development, Land resources and Panchayati Raj	190,330	13.39
3.	Health, FW and Ayush	123,900	8.71
4.	Agriculture and Irrigation	121,556	8.55
5.	Social Justice	90,273	6.35
6.	Physical Infrastructure	128,160	9.01
7.	Scientific Departments	66,580	4.68
8.	Energy	57,409	4.04
	Total Priority Sector	1,052,436	74.03
9.	Others	369,275	25.97
Total		14,21,711	100.00

(c) Close monitoring of various schemes/ programmes would facilitate achievements of targets.

Statement

I. National Monitorable Targets

Twenty seven targets at the national level fall in six major categories. The six categories are: (a) Income and Poverty; (b) Education; (c) Health; (d) Women and Children; (e) Infrastructure; and (f) Environment. The targets in each of these categories are given below.

(a) Income and Poverty

- (i) Average GDP growth rate of 9% per year in the Eleventh Plan period.
- (ii) Agricultural GDP growth rate at 4% per year on the average.
- (iii) Generation of 70 million new work opportunities.
- (iv) Reduction of unemployment among the educated to less than 5%.
- (v) Twenty per cent rise in the real wage rate of unskilled workers.

(vi) Reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

(b) Education

- (i) Reduction in the drop out rates of children from elementary school from 52.2% in 2003-04 to 20% by 2011-12, that is by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- (ii) Developing minimum standards of educational attainment in elementary schools, to ensure quality education.
- (iii) Increasing the literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or more to 85% by 2011-12.
- (iv) Lowering the gender gap in literacy to 10 percentage points by 2011-12.
- (v) Increasing the percentage of each cohort going to higher education from the present 10% to 15% by 2011-12.

(c) Health

- (i) Infant mortality rate (IMR) to be reduced to 28

and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 1 per 1000 live births by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

- (ii) Total Fertility Rate to be reduced to 2.1 by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- (iii) Clean drinking water to be available for all by 2009, ensuring that there are no slip-backs by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- (iv) Malnutrition among children of age group 0-3 to be reduced to half its present level by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- (v) Anemia among women and girls to be reduced to half its present level by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

(d) Women and Children

- (i) Sex ratio for age group 0-6 to be raised to 935 by 2011-12 and to 950 by 2016-17.
- (ii) Ensuring that at least 33 per cent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl children.
- (iii) To ensure that all children enjoy a safe childhood, without any compulsion to work.

(e) Infrastructure

- (i) To ensure electricity connection to all villages and BPL households by 2009 and reliable power by the end of the Plan.
- (ii) To ensure all weather road connection to all habitations with population 1000 and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) by 2009, and ensure coverage of all significant habitations by 2015.
- (iii) To connect every village by telephone and provide broadband connectivity to all villages by 2012.
- (iv) To provide homestead sites to all by 2012 and step up the pace of house construction for rural poor to cover all the poor by 2016-17.

(f) Environment

- (i) To increase forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points.
- (ii) To attain WHO standards of air quality in all major cities by 2011-12.
- (iii) To treat all urban waste water by 2011-12 to clean river waters.
- (iv) To increase energy efficiency by 20 percentage points by 2016-17.

II. State Specific Targets

The Eleventh Plan has been formulated in a manner whereby 13 of the 27 monitorable national targets have been disaggregated into appropriate targets for individual States. These are:—

- (a) GDP Growth rate
- (b) Agricultural growth rate
- (c) New work opportunities
- (d) Poverty ratio
- (e) Drop out rate in elementary schools
- (f) Literacy rate
- (g) Gender gap in literacy rate
- (h) Infant mortality rate (IMR)
- (i) Maternal mortality ratio (MMR)
- (j) Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
- (k) Child malnutrition
- (l) Anemia among women and girls
- (m) Sex-ratio

[English]

CGHS Facility to Other Categories

5145. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKAWAD:

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

(a) whether the categories of pensioners and employees including their relatives presently excluded from the purview of CGHS have represented to the Government for including them within the CGHS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Central Government Health Scheme coverage is presently in 24 cities. Serving Employees, Pensioners and their families in these cities are eligible to become members of CGHS. Employees and pensioners, outside CGHS areas have represented for expansion of CGHS to the left out areas as well. While serving employees in these areas are covered by CS(MA) Rules, pensioners can enroll as members of the nearest CGHS city for IPD services.

Killing of Tigers by Villagers

5146. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of tigers of Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra have been killed by the people of the villages surrounding the Reserve;

(b) whether the trees are being cut in the said Reserve by the timber mafia and a paper mill;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the tigers in the Reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) As reported by the State, mortality of a tiger on account of electrocution through a wire laid by poachers, has occurred in January, 2007, outside the western boundary of the Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra, and action has been taken against the offenders. While some instances of

illicit felling of bamboo and timber have come to light in the area, no organized crime in this regard by timber mafia or paper mill has been noticed.

(d) The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are as below:—

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.
3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4-09-2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, interalia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/ audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairman-

ship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6-6-2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, inter alia, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.
8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/fringe area).
10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in

2006, for preparing reserve-wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

National Coaching Camps

5147. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coaching camps for various games organized during 2006-07 and 2007-08;
- (b) the details of venues/locations where such camps were organized;
- (c) the criteria for selection of cities for organizing such camps;
- (d) the number of national/international level sports persons selected from such camps for various games; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to organize such camps in backward tribal dominated regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) and (b) 271 national coaching camps were organized in 2006-07 and 283 national coaching camps were organized in 2007-08 for various games at New Delhi, Patiala, Bangalore, Bhopal, Gandhinagar, Sonapat, Kolkota, Guwahati, Imphal, Gwallor, Shiloro, Goa, Nellore, Vishakhapatnam, Dehradun, Tirupati, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Jamshedpur, Trivendrum, Alleppy, Lucknow, Hissar, Chennai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Gurgaon and Siliguri.

- (c) The city for holding of coaching camp is

decided during discussions on the Long Term Development Plan as per action plan prepared by the National Sports Federations. Final decision about the venue is taken based on various factors like age group of players, level of training required, availability of infrastructure and other facilities.

(d) 4000 sportspersons in various categories underwent training at various National Coaching Camps in 2007-08. Out of these nearly 1000 sportspersons represented the country in various international competitions while 3000 sportspersons participated in National level competitions.

(e) Sports Authority of India holds coaching camps in the backward tribal dominated region including its centres in North Eastern States and other places like Sundergarh and Jagatpur in Orissa and Bhillai in Chhattisgarh.

[Translation]

Contagious Diseases

5148. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether various contagious diseases are prevalent in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any

awareness campaign in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government to check spreading of such contagious diseases in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Contagious diseases such as measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, cholera, acute diarrhoeal diseases, viral hepatitis, enteric fever (Typhoid), pneumonia, tetanus, rabies, leptospirosis, syphilis and gonococcal infection are prevalent in different parts of the country.

As far as leprosy is concerned it has been remarkably reduced, which is evident from the trend in decrease in leprosy new case detection. The Annual new cases detected in the country has come down from an estimated 4,82,000 in 1983-84 to 1,39,252 in 2006-07. During the year 2007-08 (till February '08) 1,24,885 new leprosy cases were detected in the country, the state-wise of which is given in statement.

(c) and (d) Yes sir. Under the programme Intensified IEC activities are being carried out by the government through local and mass media.

Several National Programmes like NLEP, National Aids Control Programme, National Immunisation programme etc in collaboration with State Governments are being run to check the spread of various contagious diseases. Under NRHM also, through the strengthening of delivery system, spread of these diseases is being contained.

Statement

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

State-wise New cases Detected during 2007-08 (till February '08)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of new cases detected*		
		FB	MB	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5468	3924	9392

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	57	34	41
3.	Assam	282	873	1155
4.	Bihar	10625	6203	16828
5.	Chhattisgarh	3555	3504	7059
6.	Goa	55	90	145
7.	Gujarat	3337	2987	6324
8.	Haryana	109	229	338
9.	Himachal Pradesh	56	168	224
10.	Jharkhand	3251	3112	6363
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	61	192	253
12.	Karnataka	1780	2439	4219
13.	Kerala	301	421	722
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2091	3178	5269
15.	Maharashtra	5776	5591	11367
16.	Manipur	15	34	49
17.	Meghalaya	3	3	6
18.	Mizoram	9	14	23
19.	Nagaland	6	32	38
20.	Orissa	2628	2579	5207
21.	Punjab	271	594	885
22.	Rajasthan	175	891	1066
23.	Sikkim	7	15	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	3144	1977	5121
25.	Tripura	23	54	77
26.	Uttar Pradesh	16882	11600	28482
27.	Uttarakhand	394	310	704
28.	West Bengal	5361	6582	11943

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	8	14
30.	Chandigarh	52	121	173
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	110	37	147
32.	Daman and Diu	1	1	2
33.	Delhi	501	700	1201
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	37	9	46
Total		66379	58506	124885

*All detected cases are initiated treatment with MDT.

CVC Directives on Transfer

5149. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has issued any directives/instructions regarding transfer of the employees/officers working in 'sensitive posts' for more than three years in various Government departments or undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such directions/instructions are adhered to by various Government Departments including MTNL/BSNL; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against such Departments/Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission has issued instructions regarding rotation of officials working in sensitive posts in its circular No. 98/Vg/60 dated 15-4-1999 and 2-11-2001. As per the

instructions, the organizations are to identify the sensitive posts and effect rotational transfers on these posts every 2nd or 3rd year, as an ongoing process, to avoid vested interests getting developed.

(c) and (d) The instructions are being complied with by all organizations under the purview of the Commission including the MTNL/BSNL. The Chief Vigilance Officers of the concerned organizations in their annual submissions to the Commission provide regular reports to this effect. As per the responses received in the CVC from CVOs for the year 2007-08, the MTNL has completed the exercise in this regard in Mumbai. The BSNL also implements rotational transfers based on information collected from circles/units.

On receipt of complaints, if any, with regard to non compliance of rotational transfer instructions, the Commission sends such complaints to the concerned organizations for investigation and report. The Central Vigilance Commission has received 62 complaints with regard to rotational transfers. Of these, four complaints have been sent for investigation and report, 30 complaints of rotational transfers have been sent for necessary action to the organizations concerned and 28 complaints which did not have any merit have been filed by the Commission.

[English]

**National Data Bank on Socio-
Religious Categories**

5150. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any database exists regarding the socio-religious categories of the minorities in country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to constitute a National Data Bank on Socio-Religious Categories; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred for the creation of such Data Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No, Sir. However, a web page (mospi.gov.in/national_data_bank/index.htm) has been created in the Ministry's website (mospi.gov.in) and links to various Reports on Socio-Religious Categories (SRCs) have been provided. The data on SRCs are being collected through the Population Censuses conducted by RGI and sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. These data provide some information of minorities in the country.

(b) The Reports already available and linked with the National Data Bank web page are listed below:

NSS 48th Round	Land and Livestock holdings and debt and investment, (January-1992-December 1992)
NSS 50th Round	Consumer Expenditure and Employment and Unemployment, (July 1993-June 1994)
NSS 55th Round	Consumer Expenditure, Employment and Unemployment and Non-agricultural Enterprises in the Informal Sector in India (July'1999-June'2000)
NSS 59th Round	Consumer Expenditure, Employment-Unemployment, Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers (January-December, 2003)
NSS 61st Round	Consumer Expenditure, Employment-Unemployment Survey (July'2004-June'2005)

(c) The National Data Bank web page has been created with existing Survey Reports available through National Sample Surveys. Under the directions of PMO, a Group chaired by the Secretary (S and PI), has been constituted to identify the data needs in respect of Socio-Religious Categories (SRCs) and to propose data elements for development of unified database on SRCs. Liaison is also being made with other ministries to share their databases through the National Data Bank web page.

(d) So far, existing resources are being used for the creation of National Data Bank web page and provision of links and no separate funds allocation has been made.

**Insurance Cover for Indians Working in
Gulf Countries**

5151. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overseas Indians working in gulf countries are adequately insured for their life;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) It is mandatory for all emigrants with Emigration Check Required (ECR)

endorsed passports going for employment to any of the ECR countries and seeking emigration clearance from the office Protector of Emigrants, to take an insurance policy under the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) from the Insurance Companies operating in India. Ten Insurance Companies have been allowed to grant Insurance cover under PBBY to the emigrants.

PBBY was first introduced w.e.f. 25-12-03 and revised w.e.f. 1-02-06. The scheme initially provided a cover of minimum sum of Rs. 2 lakh in the event of death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad. This was increased to Rs. 5 lakh in 2006. Further, the sum insured has been increased to Rs. 10 lakh in addition to the other existing benefits under the PBBY and the premium rates have been lowered. The other benefits include medical cover, maternity benefits, hospitalization cover for family members, legal expenses relating to employment and reimbursement of one way airfare.

Standard Axle Load

5152. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Standard Axle Load used in India for designing of roads;

(b) whether there is a demand to increase the Standard Axle Load to carry more load;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) For designing the roads in India, following Standard Axle Loads are considered:

Single Axle Load	8160 kg.
Tandem Axle Load	14968 kg.

(b) to (d) Representations from various fora such

as industry associations/industrial units, transporters/transport associations, State Governments and some individuals were received regarding review of the permissible Axle Load. However, taking into account its adverse of effect on road infrastructure and safety, increase in standard Axle Load is not feasible.

Recommendations of National Advisory Council

5153. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations forwarded by the National Advisory Council since 2006;

(b) whether the council has formulated any policy for the Government including legal and constitutional position; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The National Advisory Council (NAC) forwarded Recommendations to the Government of India in regard to "creating energy security in villages through biomass" and the work being done by the national manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) in February, 2006 and in respect of the Right to Education and the National Rehabilitation Policy in March, 2006.

2. In the context of earlier Recommendations to the Government, the Right to Information Act came into force in June, 2005 and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in September, 2005.

3. Recommendations relating to Constitutional Amendment for Autonomy to Cooperatives and a draft Unorganized Sector Worker's Social Security Bill were forwarded to the Government. Suggestions were, *inter alia*, also forwarded on Tribal Policy and on the Gram Nyayalayas Bill.

Energy from Fusion Technology

5154. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to generate energy from fusion technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) R and D to demonstrate the technology of generation of energy from fusion is underway worldwide and the technology is yet to be established. India has a fusion research program of its own and recently, it joined International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project as a partner along with China, European Union, Korea, Japan, Russia and USA which is being established at Cadarache, France.

(c) Since the technology is in R and D stage and yet to be established, time frame to make commercial use of the same cannot be predicted.

Funding for Construction of Bridge over Brahmaputra River

5155. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided for funding of the construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra River between Dhola and Sadia in Assam to facilitate execution of the Dibang Power Project:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set for the completion of the project and the allocation proposed to be made for the project during the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN

REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power submitted the proposal seeking the approval of the Public Investment Board (PIB) for the Dibang Multi-Purpose Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh indicating two alternatives. The first alternative covers external roads and bridges including construction of a bridge over River Brahmaputra and the second alternative excludes these. The Ministry of Power have informed us that the PIB has recommended the proposal without the cost of roads and bridges.

Delay in Procurement by Government Hospitals

5156. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether any delay in the procurement of equipment/materials in Government hospitals has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such cases noticed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In so far as the Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi are concerned, no such cases of delay in the procurement of equipment/materials have been reported.

[Translation]

Maoists Activities in the Country

5157. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maoist activities have increased

in various parts of the country, particularly in the border areas adjoining Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Government of Nepal;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the proliferation of maoists activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India-Nepal have an open border and visa free regime. There are no restrictions on movement of both nationals across the border. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed along the Indo-Nepal border. There are no reports confirming Nepali Maoist activity in the Indian States bordering Nepal.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) SSB has been assigned the responsibility of guarding the 1751 Km long Indo-Nepal border covering the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim. SSB has established 387 Border Observation Posts (BOP) along the Indo-Nepal border. The BOP personnel undertake regular patrolling and lay naka/ambushes to check such activities. SSB, also, has an intelligence network and the inputs received are developed and shared with sister agencies deployed in the area and the concerned State Government authorities.

India and Nepal have various bilateral mechanisms to address the issues of mutual security.

Allotment of Forest-Land to Tribals

5158. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received

any proposal regarding allotment of forest-land to the tribal people, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the date on which such proposals were received from the States;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the number of the tribal people who has been allotted forest-land so far alongwith the purpose for which the land has been allotted? Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Union Government has not received any proposal regarding allotment of forest land specifically to tribal people. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has come into force on 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for recognition and vesting of forest rights over forest land under occupation of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers rests with the State/ U.T. Governments.

(d) The State/U.T. Governments are still in the process of implementing the provisions of the Act. So far no information from the State/U.T. Governments has been received regarding the vesting of the rights of tribal and other traditional forest dwellers.

[English]

Construction of Expressways in Collaboration with Malaysian Companies

5159. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to construct expressways connecting Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai,

Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune with the help of some Malaysian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present Status of the proposal;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the period by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for construction of expressway connecting Bangalore to Chennai under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI. At present there is no involvement of any Malaysian Company. Proposal for consultancy services for fixing alignment of the said expressway has been invited.

(c) The estimated cost of the project to be constructed on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis is Rs. 5571.00 crores.

(d) The project is targeted to be completed by December, 2015.

[*Translation*]

Mahesara Bridge on NH 29 (E)

5160. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for re-construction of Mahesara bridge on the National Highway No. 29 (E);

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

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which construction of the new bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An estimate amounting to Rs. 939.40 lakhs for re-construction of Mahesara bridge on National Highway No. 29 (E) has been received and is under consideration in this Ministry. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up depending upon availability of fund and inter-se-priority. It is too early to indicate the time of start of construction of the new bridge.

[*English*]

Research and Development in Yoga

5161. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the schemes promoting research and developmental works in Yoga in the country;

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

(c) whether the Non-Governmental organisations are getting grant from the Government for this purpose;

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

(e) whether some NGOs are found misusing the fund; and

(f) if so, the action taken against such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The scheme for Extra-Mural-Research (EMR) in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy has been reviewed and modified. Revised guidelines of the scheme can be viewed at website indianmedicine.nic.in.

(c) and (d) Non-Government Organizations are getting grants from the Government under the scheme.

The list giving details of the grantees, State-wise, for the year 2007-08 is given in the statement enclosed.

one Non-Government Organization i.e. Research Centre for India's Heritage, Gurgaon, Haryana was not found to be satisfactory. Hence, grant to the Organization was discontinued.

(e) and (f) The progress on the research work by

Statement

List of NGOs given Grants-in-Aid for Research and Development under Extra-Mural Research Scheme of Department of AYUSH during the year 2007-08

Sl. No.	Title of the Project	Name of the Institution	Total Project cost (Rs.)	Funds released in Instalments (Rs.)
Karnataka				
1.	Cognitive changes following specific yoga breathing practices	Department of Neurophysiology, Div. of Yoga Life Sciences, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Research foundation, Bangalore, Karnataka	5,91,000/-	(i) 3,20,500/-
2.	Efficacy of Yoga based lifestyle interventions in preventive Cardiology and Diabetology	Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sansthan, Bangalore, Karnataka	20,00,000/-	(i) 9,70,000/- (ii) 8,30,000/-
Maharashtra				
3.	Critical edition of Yogaupanishad (Yogakundalyupanishad, Yogacundamanyupanishad Trisikhhabrahamnopnishad)	Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla, Dist. Pune, Maharashtra	9,14,200/-	(i) 4,13,300/-
4.	Yoga for Prevention and Control of Suicidal Tendency and Restoring Mental Health in Indian Adolescent Students	Scientific Research Deptt., Kaivalyadhama, Lonavla, Pune, Maharashtra	22,56,000/-	(i) 9,68,000/-
5.	Stress management in mothers of students appearing for competitive examination through yoga.	International Board of Yoga, Yoga Bhavan, Sri Yogendra Marg, Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (East), Mumbai.	20,00,000	(i) 14,41,800/-

Strategy for Elimination of Leprosy

5162. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the details of the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the goal of elimination of leprosy during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to prevent recurrence of leprosy symptoms among the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The goal of elimination of leprosy (i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 popl.) has already been achieved at the National level in December 2005. The objective of the programme during the 11th Five Year Plan is to further reduce the burden of leprosy in the country. The Strategy adopted by the government to achieve this objective is given below:—

- (i) Provision of quality leprosy services to all persons through General Health Care (GHC) system.
- (ii) Capacity building of general health care functionaries.
- (iii) Timely case diagnosis and prompt treatment with Multi Drug Therapy (MDT).
- (iv) Intensified IEC using local and Mass Media approaches.
- (v) Prevention of disability and medical rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons.
- (vi) Strengthening monitoring and evaluation under the programme.

(b) Recurrence/Relapse in leprosy is rare.

The following efforts are being made by the

Government to prevent recurrence of leprosy symptoms among the patients:—

- (i) Ensuring completion of treatment.
- (ii) Follow-up of the cases for any lepra reactions and their management.
- (iii) Counseling of the patients during multi-drug treatment about possible symptoms due to leprosy reactions.
- (iv) Regular training of General Health Care staff for quality care.

Volume of Traffic Handled by Ports

5163. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
 SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
 SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the volume of traffic handled by the Indian ports is declining;

(b) if so, the details of volume of traffic handled by the each port in the country at present;

(c) whether the use of obsolete technology available at ports is hampering the productivity of the ports;

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

(e) the likely traffic growth envisaged for the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for modernisation of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The volume of the traffic handled by all the Major Ports has been steadily rising over the years. The details of the volume of the traffic handled by the major ports from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are as follows:—

Name of the Port	Traffic Handled in Million Tonnes		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Kolkata	53.14	55.05	57.28
Paradip	33.10	38.51	42.43
Visakhapatnam	55.80	56.38	64.59
Chennai	47.24	53.41	57.15
Jawaharlal Nehru	37.83	44.81	55.75
Mumbai	44.19	52.36	57.03
Tuticorin	17.13	18.00	21.48
Cochin	13.88	15.25	15.31
New Mangalore	34.45	32.04	36.01
Mormugao	31.68	34.24	35.12
Kandla	45.90	52.98	64.89
Ennore Port Limited	9.16	10.71	11.56
Total	423.56	463.74	519.10

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Major Ports are continuously modernizing the port infrastructure based on the requirements of Port users and no obsolete technology is being used.

(e) It is anticipated that the major ports will handle a traffic of 708.09 MT by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.

(f) Modernization of Ports is a continuous process wherein various projects covering the entire spectrum of activities in the Port sector are taken up based on the requirement of each individual Port. The Department of Shipping has finalized a National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) for modernization of the Port sector for implementation by 2011-12. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the Port sector which include berth development, deepening of channel, procurement of equipment and port craft, rail/

road connectivity and other associated work. Till date, 29 projects of the Port sector with a total cost of Rs. 3846 crore have been completed under NMDP.

Use of Hovercrafts In Passenger Transport

5164. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hovercrafts are being used for passenger movement in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Hovercrafts that are operational at present in the country for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the Hovercraft travel and increase their number for passenger travel?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Coal Deposit in Abandoned
Coal Mines**

5165. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several coal mines in the country have been abandoned;

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

(c) the estimated quantum of coal deposits available in such abandoned coal mines;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to exploit the deposits of Coal from these abandoned mines;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to collaborate with foreign companies to exploit the coal deposits; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the study conducted by the Central Mining Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) in respect of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), it is found that 55 mines/units in these subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) have been abandoned either due to techno-economical or safety reasons. 9 other mines/units have been abandoned in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) due to exhaustion of extractable reserves, safety or techno-economic ground, poor grade of coal, heavy water seepage and drowning of mine.

As reported by CIL, it is very difficult to ascertain coal reserves in such abandoned coal mines in the

absence of proper geological report and non-availability of abandoned mines plans. However, subsidiary-wise indicative left out reserves in those abandoned mines/units, is given as below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Name of the Company	No. of Mines	Left out reserves
Eastern Coalfields Limited	17	280.24
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	22	668.18
Central Coalfields Limited	16	482.70
Western Coalfields Limited	4	82.18
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	5	17.21
Total		1530.51

In M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), 44 mines have been closed and 650 million tonnes of coal have been estimated to be present in these mines at the time of closure. Majority of the deposits are either converted or under conversion into open cast projects.

(d) to (g) The opening and closure of the mines is an activity which is done in a careful and systematic manner. It is a continuous process in a coal mining industry.

Coal mining is site specific and passes through different phases of project life cycle as initial, peak and final. The mines get closed due to:

- (i) Exhaustion of reserves;
- (ii) Adverse geo-mining condition; and
- (iii) Un-economical operation.

It is possible sometimes to reopen closed underground mines where reasonable amounts of coal are available in the form of barriers, partition thin seams, etc., and work with opencast methods.

To exploit the coal deposits in abandoned mines.

CIL is now thinking of inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for economic exploitation of such reserves. No collaboration of CIL/SCCL with foreign companies to exploit such coal deposits has been finalized so far.

Criteria of Poverty

5166. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed the definition of poverty based on a definition as proposed by the Lakdawala Committee of 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Government has proposed to set a fresh criteria to measure poverty during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The definition of poverty fixed by the Government is based on the recommendations made by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor in 1993. The Expert Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. D.T. Lakdawala.

(b) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has used the criteria outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor to measure poverty in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Review of Economic and Industrial Policy

5167. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplates changes in the economic and industrial policy of the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for providing relief to the people whose *per capita* daily expenditure is less than 2 US dollars a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternative arrangements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Government has been implementing a number of programmes with a view to alleviating poverty. The major schemes/programmes include National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme. The Government is also implementing a number of programmes to improve the nutrition status of the population. These are Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme, etc. For health National Rural Health Mission is being implemented. For education Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, is being implemented. For rural and urban infrastructure, Bharat Nirman, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission respectively have been launched. These programmes are being implemented in collaboration with the State Governments.

[English]

Black Carbon Cloud Over the Country

5168. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists have warned that black carbon cloud over the country rings alarm bells;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the environment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) refers to the high loading of pollutants in the atmosphere consisting of mixture of anthropogenic sulphate, nitrate, organics, black carbon, dust and fly ash particles and natural aerosols such as sea salt and mineral dust. The study on exact impacts of pollutant loading over monsoon rain and agriculture under the International programme on Atmospheric Brown Cloud has been initiated by the world community to understand such impacts.

(c) India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include *inter alia*—setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms, use of cleaner and lesser carbon-intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content.

Further, the Government has also set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

Compensation to Project-Affected-People

5169. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints/appeals for providing suitable compensation and jobs to the project-affected-people after the acquisition of their land for Western Coalfields Ltd.'s Gondagaon project in Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Coal company including the Western Coalfields Ltd. for disposal of the pending claims of such project-affected-people;

(d) whether any direction has been issued by the Government to Coal company to provide relief to these people immediately; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some references have been received in Western Coalfields limited (WCL) from Shri Prakash B. Jadhao and Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, Hon'ble Members of Parliament requesting for enhanced payment of land compensation to land oustees, employment to all land oustees and rehabilitation of Gondagaon village.

(c) In respect of 494.64 hectares of land acquired under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and also under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, all claims regarding payment of compensation and providing jobs to eligible land oustees have been settled. However, out of the 103 land oustees involved in the acquisition of the remaining 119.87 hectares of land through direct purchase by WCL, in villages Ghatrohana and Juni Kamptee, 29 land oustees have already accepted the final land compensation and executed the sale deeds, 65 land oustees have been paid advance compensation at the rate of Rs. 35,000 per hectare and the final settlement is in progress and the remaining 9 land oustees are being persuaded to receive the land compensation based on the land rate provided by the State authority. Under direct acquisition of land, out of the 65 eligible employment, 60 land oustees have been provided employment, claims for employment of 4 land oustees are under process and one land oustee has been given subsistence allowance

in lieu of employment. Alternative site for resettlement of Gondegaon village has been identified and the purchase of land is in the final stage.

(d) and (e) As the claims of the land oustees are to be settled in accordance with the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of Coal India Limited, no separate directive is issued by the Government to Western Coalfields Limited.

[Translation]

**Health Schemes Run with
Foreign Assistance**

5170. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any health scheme is being implemented with foreign assistance in various States including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise?

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

(b) The Reproductive and Child Health programme (Phase II) is being implemented with foreign assistance as a part of the overall National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in all the States/UTs of the country including the state of Maharashtra. The Programme aims to reduce total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) by providing better health care to infants and pregnant women. The external assistance for the programme is being received centrally. However, some state specific programmes are also being implemented with external assistance in different states, details are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The state wise and year wise allocation of funds under RCH Programme (Phase II) during the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Other Foreign Assisted Projects

State	Project Name	Amount	Funding Agency
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh (MP) Health Sector Reform Programme	£ 60 million	DFID
Orissa	Orissa Health Sector Plan (2006-2010)	Rs. 400.00 crs. (incl.) Rs. 100 crs. for support to nutrition	DFID
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Health Programme	£ 40 million	DFID
West Bengal	(1) Health Sector Development Initiatives Programme, (2) Basic Health Project	100 million GB Pounds 203.25 crs.	DFID KfW (German Development Bank)

State	Project Name	Amount	Funding Agency
	NICED Kolkatta-JICA assisted project for prevention and control of Emerging Diarmoeal Diseases	Rs. 11.2 crs. (Phase-I) Rs. 90 crs. (Phase-II)	Japan Cooperation
Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Health System including Utrakhand Development Project (cr. 3338-IN)	US \$ 110.00	World Bank
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Health System Development Project (cr. 3867-IN)	US \$ 89.00	World Bank
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Health System Development Project (cr. 4018-IN)	US \$ 110.83	World Bank
Karnataka	Karnataka Health System Development and Reforms Project (cr. 4229-IN)	US \$ 141.83	World Bank
	Karnataka—KfW assisted Secondary Level Health Care Project	Euro 13.804 (Phase-I) Euro 14.3 (Phase-II)	German Assistance
Orissa	Orissa Improvement of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Paediatrics Cuttack	83 million Japan Yen	Japan Cooperation
National Programme	Innovations in Family Planning Services (IFPS Projects)	US \$ 225 million (Total committed cost to GOI)	USAID

Statement-II*Allocation under RCH Flexible Pool for the year 2005-06 to 2007-08*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	Year		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
A. High Focus States				
1.	Bihar	123.72	160.91	49.75

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chhattisgarh	32.94	40.62	35.76
3.	Himachal Pradesh	9.21	9.34	10.18
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	13.79	15.05	12.22
5.	Jharkhand	42.17	52.53	44.33
6.	Madhya Pradesh	95.31	117.11	264.25
7.	Orissa	58.68	71.36	106.25
8.	Rajasthan	86.48	109.57	157.07
9.	Uttar Pradesh	251.37	322.43	155.80
10.	Uttarakhand	14.10	16.31	14.10
	Sub Total	727.79	915.23	849.71
	B. NE States			
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.68	4.48	11.17
12.	Assam	107.46	113.26	159.09
13.	Manipur	13.58	10.06	13.64
14.	Meghalaya	10.01	10.02	12.97
15.	Mizoram	14.62	3.90	6.86
16.	Nagaland	8.70	8.39	11.28
17.	Sikkim	2.89	2.24	3.11
18.	Tripura	12.86	13.24	17.93
	Sub Total	175.79	165.77	236.05
	C. Non-High Focus States			
19.	Andhra Pradesh	93.24	113.25	141.34
20.	Goa	1.70	1.91	1.43
21.	Gujarat	60.05	75.73	61.10
22.	Haryana	25.31	31.36	29.82
23.	Karnataka	64.27	78.87	64.25
24.	Kerala	39.03	47.59	57.17

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Maharashtra	115.09	144.53	62.92
26.	Punjab	29.43	36.30	29.38
27.	Tamil Nadu	74.58	92.61	78.46
28.	West Bengal	95.13	119.60	117.88
	Sub Total	597.83	741.75	643.75
D. Small States/UTs				
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.71	0.61	0.47
30.	Chandigarh	1.00	1.26	0.93
31.	Dadar and Nagar	0.56	0.58	0.34
32.	Daman	0.58	0.56	0.25
33.	Delhi	15.98	20.63	14.08
34.	Lakshadweep	0.56	0.53	0.16
35.	Puducherry	1.36	1.30	1.26
	Sub Total	20.47	25.47	17.49
Grand Total		1522.16	1848.22	1747.00

[English]

Pampa River Action Plan

5171. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the Pampa Action Plan to clean and protect the Pampa River in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the action plan; and

(d) the time by which the plan is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Pampa Action Plan

was sanctioned by Government of India under the National River Conservation Plan in May, 2003 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Government of Kerala at a cost of Rs. 18.45 crore. The details of the sanctioned project are as per statement. The Central and State Governments' shares in the project is Rs. 12.92 crore and Rs. 5.53 crore respectively. Against the Central share of funds, an amount of Rs. 1.75 crore has been released to the Government of Kerala. Twelve components of works were approved under the Pampa Action Plan, which are under various stages of progress. An expenditure of Rs. 1.46 crore has been incurred by the State Government for the implementation of the approved works. According to the Government of Kerala, the target of completion of the project is two years.

Statement**Pollution Abatement Scheme for the River at Pamba and Sabarimala****General Abstract of Cost**

Sl. No.	Items	Amount in lakhs
1.	Establishment of 3 MLD Sewage treatment plant as Sabrimala	240.00
2.	Establishment of 1.5 MLD Sewage treatment plant at Pamba of Technical report	120.00
3.	Sewage collection tank pumping system and sewer lines in Sabrimala and Pamba	194.30
4.	Construction of 300 latrines at Pamba and 400 latrines 100 bathrooms at Sabrimala	230.00
5.	Solid waste collection and disposal arrangements in Sabrimala and Pamba	250.00
6.	Segregation of existing drains and construction of new drains at Sabrimala and Pamba	126.95
7.	Construction of Mobile latrines at Sabrimala and Pamba	140.00
8.	Interception Barriers of Sewage across Kakka thodu and Urakkuzhi Theertham in Pamba	25.00
9.	Construction of Storage weirs and allied works for Flushing the Pollutants one each in Pamba river and Kakki river Upstream of the confluence point in Pamba with fencing at Pollutant sources and storage shed for generator near weir	86.25
10.	Construction of weir Downstream of bathing ghat at Arattukadavu to prevent pollutants of Njunajar river entering the bathing Ghat at Pamba	18.00
11.	New Bathing Ghat and allied works on the left side of Pamba river opposite to the existing bathing ghat	35.00
12.	Public Awareness	20.00
	Sub-total (1 to 12)	1485.50
	Add 15 per cent escalation	227.82
	Total	1708.32
	Add 8 per cent centage charges	136.66
	Grand Total	1844.98

Say Rs. 18.45 crore

*[Translation]***By-Passes in Maharashtra**

5172. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for construction of by-passes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon by the Union Government; and

(c) the present status of the proposals pending with the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) to (c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. The Government of Maharashtra has recently submitted an estimate amounting to Rs. 938.24 lakhs for construction of Bhokar bypass on NH-222. This proposal is under examination.

*[English]***Increase in Rates of Tests in AIIMS**

5173. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has increased the rates of various tests and also the charges for the ICU;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any representations from the people in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has not increased the charges of various tests of ICU etc. There is no such proposal under consideration. As far as ICU charges are concerned, the same have not been revised since 1995. The ICU charges are levied only on Private Ward paying patients.

(c) and (d) No representation has been received by the Government in this regard.

Incidents of Fire in Abandoned Mines

5174. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent coal fires in the illegal pits of abandoned mines has spread from Asansol to Nimcha Coalfields;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take effective steps to check the further spread of coal fire in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Due to illegal mining a fire had occurred at J.K. Nagar fire project (near Nimcha Village) under Satgram Area, Raniganj-Asansol coal belt in West Bengal on 4-1-2008 and the fire was dealt with suitably by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and State Authorities. Smoke was seen coming out from a pothole in the south side of Nimcha village and the pothole was filled immediately with mutti/soil and compacted. Subsequently, on 26-3-2008, when an underground gallery was opened during illegal mining, the smoke/fire was observed again. This illegal underground gallery was driven by miscreants from high wall side of coal edge which was filled earlier with mutti/soil. The affected areas were immediately filled up by mutti/soil and compacted to prevent the access of air. At present no fire/smoke is reported from these areas.

The Nigha Seam (R-VIII) is the top most seam occurring near and around Nimcha Village at a depth of 20-22 metres which was mined unscientifically by the erstwhile owners through underground mining and was abandoned prior to nationalisation. Due to shallow depth illegal pits were opened by miscreants for illegal mining of coal leading to spontaneous heating/fire which was detected in late seventies.

(c) and (d) Attempt to tackle this fire was started in a systematic manner by ECL through J.K. Nagar Fire Project taken up in 1983. Potholes and incline openings around Nimcha village were filled up by mutti/soil and compacted by dozer and other heavy earth moving machinery. In the year 1991, ECL approved a scheme for cutting of trench on south side of Nimcha village to isolate it from fire. The work of trench cutting is in progress. Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad, has also been engaged for scientific investigation for ascertaining the extent of fire towards Nimcha village for taking further course of action.

Research Centre for Gas Emission

5175. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of gas emission in the country as compared to other countries;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up any Research Centre for gas emission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) India with 16% of world population contributes to approximately 4% of global greenhouse

gas emissions. India's emissions approximately amount to 23% of USA, 30% of China, 37% of European Union-15.

(b) and (c) A research centre is proposed to be set up, initially, as a part of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences for studying the science aspects of climate change.

[Translation]

Effectiveness of Polio Drops

5176. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) the total number of children administered polio drops during the last three years in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cases of children who have been affected by polio despite administration of polio drops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The total number of children administered polio drops during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 in the country, State-wise is attached at statement.

(b) During 2008, out of 203 cases of polio reported as on 25-04-2008, 201 cases have received Polio vaccine either during Polio Immunization Rounds or in the Routine Immunization.

Statement

Sl.No.	States	Total 2005	Total 2006	Total 2007
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	66,948	67,171	67,863
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19,710,212	19,835,021	54,448,325

Sl.No.	States	Total 2005	Total 2006	Total 2007
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	347,841	340,043	329,286
4.	Assam	9,096,815	13,688,485	14,703,725
5.	Bihar	162,173,570	159,471,756	216,633,930
6.	Uttar Pradesh	320,071,069	277,758,813	354,967,174
7.	Chandigarh	240,622	513,628	528,912
8.	Chhattisgarh	6,830,973	6,856,409	10,505,089
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	72,285	73,786	116,692
10.	Daman and Div	40,956	54,555	46,233
11.	Delhi	20,901,027	15,536,669	25,184,120
12.	Goa	257,538	256,709	266,995
13.	Gujarat	18,069,054	27,437,085	35,733,025
14.	Haryana	13,751,206	18,720,517	23,079,424
15.	Himachal Pradesh	1,456,800	2,214,877	1,432,906
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,646,032	3,585,048	4,277,861
17.	Jharkhand	24,550,627	21,233,624	19,985,975
18.	Karnataka	14,522,398	17,476,592	18,934,852
19.	Kerala	5,823,554	5,822,159	5,656,821
20.	Lakshadweep	12,447	10,972	11,800
21.	Madhya Pradesh	23,957,304	43,146,379	33,614,381
22.	Maharashtra	43,406,127	44,944,230	52,767,381
23.	Manipur	692,313	674,483	675,272
24.	Meghalaya	856,103	853,841	851,437
25.	Mizoram	228,987	233,552	235,831
26.	Nagaland	515,998	493,006	535,280
27.	Orissa	9,119,947	9,088,357	15,670,137
28.	Pondicherry	194,566	193,163	221,205

Sl.No.	States	Total 2005	Total 2006	Total 2007
29.	Punjab	8,615,152	15,350,149	16,422,050
30.	Rajasthan	27,454,517	36,596,157	36,418,603
31.	Sikkim	139,734	133,892	131,478
32.	Tamil Nadu	14,556,895	14,397,747	14,260,162
33.	Tripura	831,869	1,663,567	835,518
34.	Uttarakhand	8,942,699	7,627,866	9,704,063
35.	West Bengal	52,165,889	45,238,806	24,092,229
Grand Total		813,320,074	811,589,114	993,246,035

[English]

Release of MPLAD Funds

5177. SHRI BHAILAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government depends on the reports furnished by State/District administration for release of the MPLAD funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints against the District authority for not sending the reports of the fund released; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) MPLADS funds are released on the basis of information furnished by the District Authorities.

(b) The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is administered through a set of Guidelines. As per the MPLADS Guidelines, the first instalment is released in the

beginning of the financial year subject to the condition that second instalment of the previous year was released for the MP concerned. The second instalment of the MPLADS funds is released subject to the MPR reflecting the following:—

- (i) an unsanctioned balance amount available with the accounts of the District Authority after taking into account the cost of all the works sanctioned of less than Rs. 50 lakh;
- (ii) an unspent balance of less than Rs. 1 crore; and
- (iii) Utilization certificate for the previous financial year and the Audit certificate for the funds released for MP concerned in the year prior to the previous year have been furnished by District Authority.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pollution Control Scheme for Narmada River

5178. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any pollution control scheme in the districts of Mandla, Jabalpur, Hoshangabad etc. in Madhya Pradesh for Narmada river under the National River Conservation scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government for this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether funds have been released for the said project;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA). (a) to (g) Based on the proposals of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and in accordance with the Ministry's guidelines, five schemes for Jabalpur namely, River Front Development (RFD), Crematorium (CRE), Low Cost Sanitation (LCS), Afforestation and Public Participation (PP) have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 138.25 Lakhs under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Similarly, Pollution abatement works namely, Interception and Diversion, Sewage Treatment Plant, Catchment Area Treatment, PP, RFD, LCS etc. have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1299.0 lakhs for Hoshangabad on 70:30 cost sharing basis between Central Government and Government of Madhya Pradesh. Project proposal of Mandla town has not been received from the State Government. A central grant of Rs. 129.73 lakhs and Rs. 195.0 lakhs have been released for implementation of works at Jabalpur and Hoshangabad respectively.

Development and Maintenance of NH-92

5179. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken for development and maintenance of NH-92 in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, project-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of implementing agencies engaged for the said works;

(c) the fund released so far and spent on the said NH, project-wise;

(d) whether the work on this NH is going at slow speed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) and (b) The details of works undertaken for development and maintenance of NH-92 during last 3 years in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh alongwith implementing agencies are given in statement.

(c) Funds are allocated State-wise and not NH/project-wise. An amount of Rs. 1022.65 crore has been allocated on development and maintenance of National Highways during last 3 years in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh against which Rs. 991.67 crore has been spent.

(d) and e) The progress of two works is slow due to contractor's fault. Contractors have been directed by issuing notices to expedite the progress of works.

Statement

Details of works undertaken for development and maintenance of NH-92 during last 3 years in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Year	Name of work	Length in km.	Sanctioned cost in Rs. crore	Date of start as per contract	Date of completion as per contract/target date of completion	Status	Implementing agency
1.	2005-06	Improvement of riding Quality from km. 0.00 to 9.0 of NH-92	9.00	2.87	04-05-2005	03-02-2006	Completed	State PWD of Uttar Pradesh
2.	2006-07	Periodical Renewal in km. 9, 12 to 14 and 19/500 to 27/660 of NH-92	12.16	1.39	12-11-2006	25-04-2007	Completed	State PWD of Madhya Pradesh
3.	2006-07	Construction of 6 Nos. of CDs in km. 67/2, 73/4, 75/4, 77/4, 80/4, 76/4 of NH-92	Cross Drainage (C.D.) works	1.47	20-11-2006	19-08-2007/ 29-06-2008	In Progress	
4.	2006-07	Widening to two lane in km. 57 to 68 with reconstruction of CDs in km. 61/10, 62/8 and 65/6 of NH-92	10.40	4.90	21-03-2007	20-06-2008	In Progress	
5.	2006-07	Widening in km. 79 to 88 of NH-92	10.00	4.91	21-03-2007	11-08-2008	In Progress	

6. 2007-08	Periodical Renewal in km. 10 to 19/550 and 27/600 to 32 of NH-92	11.95	1.15	30-11-2007	15-03-2008	Completed
7. 2007-08	Periodical Renewal in km. 1 to 8 of NH-92	7.70	0.93	30-11-2007	15-03-2008	Completed
8. 2007-08	Widening of intermediate lane carriageway to 2 lane carriageway from km. 0.00 to 11.400 and widening and strengthening from km. 11.400 to 17.670 and 24.0 to 25.0 of NH-92	18.67	10.34	22-12-2007	21-12-2008	In Progress
9. 2007-08	Widening and strengthening of existing intermediate lane carriageway to 2 lane carriageway from km. 49.000 to 55.100 of NH-92	6.10	5.80	22-02-2008	21-11-2008	In Progress

State PWD
of Uttar
Pradesh

[English]

**Opening of Kendriya Bhandars in
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

5180. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand to open Kendriya Bhandars in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is long pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is no proposal for opening of Kendriya Bhandar in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands pending for consideration of the Government or Kendriya Bhandar.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-China Agreement on Tibet

5181. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any agreement with China on the issue of Tibet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 29 April 1954, India and the People's Republic of China signed the "Agreement between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China on Trade and Intercourse between Tibet Region of China and India". This Agreement was aimed at promoting trade and cultural intercourse between India and Tibet Region of China and facilitating pilgrimage and travel by the peoples of India and China. The Agreement lapsed in 1962.

**Hurdles in Implementation of
National Rural Health Mission**

5182. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether difficulties have been faced in the process of implementation of National Rural Health Mission by the State Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April 2005 to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population. NRHM has rejuvenated the demand for health services in Public Sector. The states have reported improved utilization of OPD and in Patient services and availability of critical inputs including medicines, diagnostic services and referral arrangements. The Government has operationalised NRHM through a detailed Framework for Implementation which was finalized after consultations with all stake holders and experts. Continuous and proactive handholding of states is inherent to the spirit of NRHM and all states are showing enthusiastic response to implementation of the Mission.

The architectural corrections envisaged under NRHM are dependent on overall capacity in the states. The key difficulties like shortage of critical Human Resources, limited availability of support services including clean drinking water and sanitation facilities in remote and underserved areas are being addressed on priority under the NRHM and other programmes.

[Translation]

Proposal for Medical College in Jharkhand

5183. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Jharkhand for establishing a medical college in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from Government of Jharkhand. However, a proposal for establishment of new medical college at Bokaro by Bakaro Ispat Educational Trust, Bokaro, Jharkhand has been received which contained the recommendation of Government of Jharkhand. The same has been forwarded to Medical Council of India (MCI) for evaluation and recommendations. As per the time schedule given in Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999, the last date to issue Letter of Permission by Central Government is 15th July every year.

[English]

**Expert Committee's Report for
Restructuring of CIL**

5184. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up for restructuring of the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the report; and

(c) the action taken/to be taken by the Government to implement the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Government had set up an Expert Committee for suggesting a Road Map for Coal Sector Reforms which has submitted its final report in September, 2007.

(b) The board recommendations contained in the report are as follows:

The Committee has recommended to enhance exploration efforts to establish new coal reserves; augment production to match the projected demand in medium and long terms; make fuel supply and transport agreements mandatory for major consumers like power; streamline procedures for environmental, forestry and mining approvals both at Central and State levels in a time bound manner to realise the projected production with strict monitoring mechanism; introduce exploration-cum-mining leases for coal in line with new exploration licensing policy of oil sector, adopt clean coal technologies at the stage of production and consumption to address the issue of emissions; enhance the delegated powers of PSU Coal Company Boards to facilitate them to take decisions involving higher investment levels; revisit the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes including re-categorisation of forest lands to identify 'go' and 'no-go' areas; proper mine closure and restoration of mined out areas; instituting a regulatory mechanism for coal sector; restructuring of CIL; review of human resource management in coal sector; improve the productivity of man and machinery with focus on technology up gradation; promotion of underground mining; switch over to GCV based pricing and grading of coal; promote coal washing; rationalise railway tariff; greater emphasis on research and development; promotion of cutting edge technologies like UCG, CBM, CMM, CTL etc.

(c) The recommendations made in the report are under the consideration of Government.

**Budgetary Allocations for
North East States**

5185. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary provisions made for the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) during the last three years;

(b) the allocation of funds for North East Region by the MoEF during the last three years, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(c) the area of plantation taken up under the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) during the last three years, state-wise in the North Eastern Region; and

(d) the number of NGOs selected for implementation of the schemes in the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) the budgetary provisions made for the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) during the last three years, are Rs. 1388.19 crore, Rs. 1520.14 crore, Rs. 1539.00 crore for the years 2005-06,

2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

(b) the allocation of funds for North East Region by the MoEF during the last three years, State-wise and Scheme-wise, are given in Statement-I.

(c) the area of plantation taken up under the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) during the last three years, state-wise in the North Eastern Region, are given in the Statement-II.

(d) the number of NGOs selected for implementation of the schemes in the North Eastern States are 75, 41 and 40 NGO's for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	Arunachal Pradesh	144.84	78.60	125.00
		Assam	193.20	161.79	82.00
		Manipur	101.03	96.98	105.00
		Meghalaya	59.30	38.20	64.00
		Mizoram	221.28	136.06	169.00
		Nagaland	1.50	16.38	19.00
		Sikkim	118.84	140.37	150.00
		Tripura	0.00	31.60	36.00
2.	Biosphere Reserve	Assam	39.84	13.80	25.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	16.09	37.77	35.00
		Meghalaya	34.53	40.00	30.00
		Sikkim	49.72	58.43	59.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves, Coral Reefs and Wetlands	Assam	0.00	82.08	50.00
		Manipur	0.00	0.00	30.00
		Tripura	0.00	0.00	
		Mizoram	0.00	17.92	53.00
4.	Project Elephant	Arunachal Pradesh	71.50	61.00	45.00
		Assam	40.00	75.00	125.00
		Meghalaya	30.00	61.55	50.00
		Mizoram	0.00	0.00	
		Nagaland	48.00	52.45	30.00
		Tripura	0.00	0.00	
5.	Project Tiger	Arunachal Pradesh	172.41	237.00	110.00
		Assam	86.48	87.43	96.00
		Mizoram	65.15	115.16	83.00
		Tripura	50.00	0.00	
6.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	274.66	191.68	308.00
		Assam	400.00	190.26	496.00
		Manipur	128.80	395.18	143.00
		Meghalaya	80.00	150.00	86.00
		Mizoram	300.00	229.71	414.00
		Nagaland	54.00	337.72	365.00
		Sikkim	0.00	141.70	121.00
		Tripura	16.00	162.91	99.00
7.	National Afforestation Programme	Arunachal Pradesh	289.00	293.00	500.00
		Assam	550.00	1360.00	1000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Manipur	630.00	778.00	1200.00
		Meghalaya	518.00	544.00	500.00
		Mizoram	1006.00	1309.00	1500.00
		Nagaland	537.00	722.00	1000.00
		Sikkim	643.00	741.00	1000.00
		Tripura	427.00	437.00	500.00
8.	Gregarious Flowering Mull Bamboo	Arunachal Pradesh	10.00	65.00	50.00
		Assam	325.00	0.00	600.00
		Manipur	241.00	303.40	300.00
		Meghalaya	171.00	0.00	350.00
		Mizoram	300.00	1033.20	650.00
		Nagaland	210.00	421.90	100.00
		Tripura	525.00	606.50	630.00

Statement-II

(Area in Ha.)

Sl. No.	State	05-06	06-07*	07-08
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1940	0.00	5705
2.	Assam	2940	0.00	15660
3.	Manipur	500	0.00	12295
4.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	10640
5.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	6045
6.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	8350
7.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	16150
8.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	8075

*Advance Work of the Project sanctioned during 2006-07, is included in the figures of the year 2007-08.

**Environmental Clearance to
Lower Penganga**

5186. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Maharashtra Government for Lower Penganga Project in Yavatmal, seeking environment clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(c) the time by which the clearance to the project is likely to be given; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan of the Lower Penganga Project in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra were examined by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of September, 2006 and on the basis of recommendations of the EAC, the environmental clearance was accorded to this project in May, 2007.

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

**Proposal for National Skill
Development Board**

5187. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up National Skill Development Board;

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

(c) the time by which the above Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Government is in the process of setting of a Skill Development Corporation.

(b) and (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2008 has stated as follows:

"101. Today, skill development programmes are diffused and administered by a number of Ministries/ Departments. I have no intention of interfering with these sector-specific programmes. However, there is a compelling need to launch a world-class skill development programme, in mission mode, that will address the challenge of imparting the skills required by a growing economy. Both the structure and the leadership of the mission must be such that the programme can be scaled up quickly to cover the whole country. Hence, I propose to establish a non-profit corporation and entrust the mission to that corporation. It is my intention to garner about Rs. 15,000 crore as capital from Government, the public and private sector, and bilateral and multilateral sources. I shall begin by putting Rs. 1,000 crore as Government's equity in the proposed non-profit corporation."

Opening up of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Road

5188. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road for trade as reported in The Asian Age dated 24th March, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan during the latter's visit to India in April 2005 had agreed to pursue further measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LOC including trade and truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route.

(e) Apart from encouraging people-to-people contacts this step would improve market access for products.

National Environment Awareness Campaign

5189. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Union Government under the National Environment Awareness Campaign for the year 2008-09;

(b) the amount allocated by the Union Government to various States including West Bengal for this purpose; and

(c) the extent of improvement likely to be brought out in the field of environment as a result of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A nation wide campaign called the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is conducted every year with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level. In this campaign, nominal financial assistance is provided to NGOs, schools, colleges, universities, research institutions, women and youth organisations, army units, government departments etc. from all over the country for organizing and conducting activities aimed at creating awareness followed by action.

(b) No fixed amount has been allocated State-wise. The estimated amount for the entire country is Rs. 6.00 crores approximately

(c) These activities are likely to result in enhanced awareness level amongst the general public.

[Translation]

Plantation of Ratanjot

5190. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of Madhya Pradesh

Government relating to the nursery and plantation of Ratanjot is pending with the Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal of Rs. 67.81 Crore in the year 2006-07 for raising Ratanjot saplings in nursery and plantations. The proposal will be considered after approval of demonstration phase of the National Mission on Biodiesel which at present is with Group of Ministers for consideration. However the Government of India has provided Rs. 9 Crore to the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the year 2006-07 for the purpose of raising Ratanjot saplings in the nurseries.

[English]

Plan to Inter-Connect Hospitals

5191. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to inter-connect the major Government hospitals in the country;

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

(c) the time by which such hospitals are likely to be inter-connected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As part of telemedicine initiatives, some states are establishing information technology based networks for service delivery, continuous medical education, tele diagnostics etc.

However the Government does not plan to interconnect the main Government Hospitals in the country.

**Funds for Medical Facilities for
Haj Pilgrims**

5192. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of funds allocated by the Government for providing medical assistance to Haj Pilgrims during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure better facilities for the Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The year-wise details of funds allocated by the Government for providing medical assistance to Haj Pilgrims during the last three years are as follows:—

Item/Year (1426-H)	Haj 2006-I (1426-H)	Haj 2006-II (1427-H)	Haj 2007 (1428-H)
Cost of Medicines and supplies from India (Rs.)	112,80,780	115,67,449	123,47,485
Cost of Medicines and supplies purchased in Saudi Arabia (in Equivalent (Rs.))	3,48,837	3,61,446	3,26,087
Cost of New Ambulances purchased in Saudi Arabia (in equivalent Rs.)	66,62,651	—	61,30,435
Total (Rs.)	182,92,268	119,28,895	188,04,007

(b) The Government of India makes elaborate arrangements for the welfare of Haj pilgrims and strives to improve the facilities provided to them every year. It makes arrangements to facilitate the transportation of the Haj pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee of India and facilitates provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large contingent of seasonal local staff, supervisors, data entry operators, drivers and messengers is appointed by Consulate General of India, Jeddah during Haj period. For Haj 2007, a contingent of 115 doctors (including 63 specialists with post-graduate degrees) and 141 nurses and other para-medical staff, 3 Coordinators, 46 Assistant Haj Officers, 165 Haj Assistants and 186 Khadimul Hujjaj were sent from India on short-term deputation to Saudi Arabia. Extensive medical orientation is provided to the pilgrims in the community centres set up in Makkah and Madinah by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. Last year

60-bedded admission facility was upgraded to 75 bedded admission facility in Makkah and 15-bedded in Madinah. Besides that 12 branch offices-cum-dispensaries in Makkah and 6 in Madina were set up for Haj pilgrims. Three medical teams at Jeddah Airport were available to provide medical care round the clock to Haj pilgrims. Medicines provided at these dispensaries and hospital are being supplied from India and procured locally. 17 ambulances were pressed into service of Hajis last year. Of these 7 ambulances were sanctioned in 2006 and 8 additional ambulances were provided in 2007 which added substantially to the medical facilities for the pilgrims. A system of First Information Report is followed in the case of all the pilgrims who are 70+ years of age in order to ensure that the concerned pilgrims receive specialised medical care. The Government also makes arrangements in India for polio, meningitis and influenza vaccinations for the pilgrims. The Haj Committee of India provides to the pilgrims information regarding confirmation of their seats, travel

documents, transportation, accommodation, release of foreign exchange, embarkation points and departure dates etc. The Government has taken a number of decisions to streamline the functioning of Private Tour Operators so that they provide proper services and facilities for the pilgrims.

**Environmental Clearance for
Vedanta Aluminum Plant**

5193. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently granted forest and Environmental clearance to Vedanta for the expansion of its aluminium plant at Lanjigarh in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The proposal for diversion of 660.749 ha. forest land for mining of Bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation in Kalahandi and Rayagada District in Orissa was recommended for approval by the Forest Advisory Committee in October, 2006. The recommendations could not be approved by the Competent Authority as the case is subjudice in Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The proposal of M/s. Vedanta for the expansion of the Alumina Refinery [from 1.0 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 6.0 MTPA] at P.O. Lanjigarh, District Kalahandi, Orissa has been received in the Ministry and as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Terms of Reference (TOR) have been awarded in March, 2008 for preparation of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) for submission to Orissa State Pollution Control Board for conducting public hearing/consultations. Further, the Project proponents have been requested to incorporate all the issues raised during public hearing consultation in final EIA/EMP and submit

to the Ministry for taking decision on environmental clearance.

**Constitution of Task Force for
Tigers in Sariska**

5194. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force constituted by the Government to study the tiger-crisis in Sariska forest in Rajasthan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In the wake of tigers getting locally extinct in Sariska, based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17-3-2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, a Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country. The said Task Force submitted its report on 5-8-2005. The key recommendations of the Tiger Task Force Report are as below:

- (i) Reinvigorate the institutions of governance.
- (ii) Strengthen efforts geared towards protection of the tiger, checking poaching, convicting wildlife criminals and breaking the international trade network.
- (iii) Expand the inviolate spaces for the tiger by minimizing human pressure in these areas.
- (iv) Repair the relationships with the people who share the tiger's habitat by building strategies for coexistence.
- (v) Regenerate the forest habitats in the fringes of the tiger's protective enclaves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people.

(c) The action on the recommendations of Tiger Task Force are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement**Action taken on the recommendations of
Tiger Task Force**

1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted with effect from 4-09-2006
3. A multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) has been constituted with effect from 6-6-2007.
4. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
5. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, inter alia, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
6. The All India tiger estimation has been completed using the refined, scientific methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force.
7. The independent evaluation of tiger reserves carried out by a panel of experts has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

(IUCN). The report as well as the review have been placed before the Parliament.

8. Core/critical tiger habitat in tiger reserves identified/notified, along with priority villages for relocation from such areas, for making them inviolate for tiger.
9. Advisories for filling up vacancies have been issued to States.
10. Reports obtained from Committees constituted for: (a) reserve specific strategy in tiger reserves affected by extremist engineered disturbances, and (b) refinement of the monitoring process relating to tiger reserves and its dissemination in public domain by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

**Setting up of Village Resource
Centres by ISRO**

5195. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has set up Village Resource Centres (VRCs) in the country;

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

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has so far set up 385 Village Resource Centres (VRCs) in the country. The state-wise details are; Andhra Pradesh-34; Assam-12; Bihar-19; Delhi-2; Gujarat-15; Jharkhand-26; Karnataka-46; Kerala-21; Madhya Pradesh-23; Maharashtra-19; Meghalaya-1; Nagaland-7; Orissa-44; Rajasthan-20; Tamil Nadu and Puducherry-37; Uttarakhand-17; Uttar Pradesh-28; West Bengal-10 and Andaman and Nicobar Islands-4.

(c) The benefits that are likely to accrue as result thereof include, advisories on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, land and water resources management; skill development; vocational training; health care services and supplementary education; ultimately leading to improved quality of life.

Application of Advanced Technology in Space Activities

5196. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objective to use space technology as an instrument of socio-economic development has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the major achievements in the field; and

(c) the status of application of advanced technology in space activities in comparison to that of the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major achievements of using the IRS and INSAT satellite systems for socio-economic development of India are:

- Satellite based Tele-education programme to spread education at all levels in the country.
- Satellite based Tele-Medicine programme to provide health care for remote/rural areas.
- Setting up of Village Resource Centres to provide space based services to the rural community.
- Satellite based services for Broadcasting, Business Communications, Data Communications, Remote area Communications, Emergency Communications and Mobile Communications.

- Satellite based meteorological data for improved weather services.
- Natural Resource management applications—Waste land mapping, locating sources of drinking water, forecasting agricultural output, advisories of potential fishing zones, Forestry Management, Bio-diversity characterization of bio rich areas of the country, snow melt run off estimations, land and water resource development.

(c) The Indian Launch Vehicle and Satellite technologies are state-of-the-art and are on par with the technologies of the developed countries.

Opening up of Missions and Consulates in Foreign Countries

5197. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open new Indian Missions and Consulates in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries where such missions are proposed to be opened up; and

(c) the time by which such Missions and Consulates are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes. Government have decided to open Indian Embassies in Bamako (Mali), Niamey (Niger), Guatemala City (Guatemala) and Reykjavik (Iceland).

(c) These Embassies are to become operational during 2008-09.

[Translation]

Grants for Sports Infrastructure for Schools and Colleges

5198. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether schools and colleges in rural areas has been provided grants for the development of playground and for purchase of sports materials during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) if so, details of grants provided, school-wise, college-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to wind up the Scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the target fixed for providing grant under the Scheme during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) to (e) The Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure schemes including "Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports equipment and Development of Playfield" and "Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges" were transferred to State sector with effect from 1-4-2005. Only committed liabilities were being considered up to 31-3-2007 as per the relaxation given by the Planning Commission. No funds have been provided during 2007-2008, for meeting the committed liabilities under the erstwhile sports infrastructure schemes. The details of grants released towards committed liabilities to the schools situated in rural areas and colleges/universities (including rural areas) during 2006-2007 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground for 2006-2007

Sl.No.	State	2006-2007 (Rs. in lakhs)	
		Amount released	No. of Schools
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.30	1

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0
3.	Assam	0.00	0
4.	Bihar	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0
6.	Delhi	0.00	0
7.	Goa	0.00	0
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0
9.	Haryana	0.75	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0
13.	Karnataka	0.30	1
14.	Kerala	1.06	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.92	3
16.	Maharashtra	3.02	9
17.	Manipur	0.00	0
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0
21.	Orissa	3.75	12
22.	Punjab	0.00	0
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0
26.	Tripura	0.00	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2.42	8
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0

1	2	3	4
29.	West Bengal	2.76	8
30.	Uts—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0
Total		15.28	47

*State-wise details of Central Assistance Released
under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports
in Universities and Colleges for 2006-2007*

Sl.No.	State	2006-2007	
		Amount released	No. of UNI/ Colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0
3.	Assam	0.00	0
4.	Bihar	0.00	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.20	1
6.	Goa	0.00	0
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0
8.	Haryana	3.775	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0
12.	Karnataka	47.20	5
13.	Kerala	0.00	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0
15.	Maharashtra	22.53	8
16.	Manipur	0.00	0
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0
20.	Orissa	0.80	3
21.	Punjab	19.64	3
22.	Rajasthan	0.30	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	61.25	5
24.	Tripura	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	10.60	4
26.	Uttaranchal	0.60	2
27.	West Bengal	0.60	2
28.	Delhi	43.20	1
29.	Uts—Chandigarh	0.00	0
Total		210.695	36

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Posco

5199. SMT. MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lease land in Orissa to the Korean steel company Posco for steel mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location and the area to be covered;

(c) whether any part of the land for this project falls in forest areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the environment clearance;

(e) whether any study has been conducted to find out the impact of the deforestation on the local population; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No proposal for seeking environmental clearance for mining of iron ore for steel making from M/s. Pasco, a South Korean Corporation, has been received in the Ministry as on date.

(c) and (d) An environmental clearance was accorded in July, 2007 for setting up of 4.0 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA) integrated Iron and Steel Plant with 400 Megawatt Captive Power Plant at Kujang near Paradip, Jagatsingpur, Orissa by M/s. Posco India, Orissa Pvt. Ltd. (M/s. Posco India) in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of 2006. A clearance has also been accorded in May, 2007 under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 in May, 2007. As per the information submitted by M/s. Posco India, total land acquired for the project is 4,004 acres, of which 3,097 acres is forest land. The Company has applied for transfer of this forest land.

(e) and (f) The proposal for forest clearance was as on date considered by the Forest Advisory Committee in August, 2007 and the case is subjudice as on date in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The EIA study has been conducted for the project including social impacts and the Environment Management Plan, addresses the measures to mitigate the impact. Further, compensatory afforestation is to be done as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Indian Citizens Working Abroad

5200. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

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

(a) the number of Indian citizens working in foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) whether there is any mechanism for monitoring their working conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Under the Emigration Act, 1983, the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs), under the administrative control of this Ministry grant emigration clearance to Indian emigrant workers in the emigration check required (ECR) category proceeding for employment in 17 ECR Countries. The details of such emigration clearance granted during the last three years are given in the Statement-I. About ninety per cent of Indians working abroad are in the Gulf countries. Details of total number of workers in gulf countries are given in the Statement-II.

(b) and (c) As per reports received in the Indian Missions and this Ministry, the main problems faced by the Indian emigrants in foreign countries particularly Gulf countries and Malaysia etc. are related to the following:

- non-payment/reduced/delayed payment of salaries
- non deployment on promised jobs
- adverse working conditions
- denial of appropriate medical facilities
- poor living conditions, etc.

To monitor the working conditions of the Indian workers and their protection and welfare, the following steps are taken:

- (i) On receipt of complaints against registered recruiting agents action is taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs under the provision of Emigration Act 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate/ license in serious cases.
- (ii) In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Governments/Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.
- (iii) In respect of complaint against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India.
- (iv) In case the stay of the Indian emigrant worker is declared illegal on account of various reasons, the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularising their stay or their safe deportation back to India.
- (v) In case deportation is required, this Ministry coordinates with the local Government through Indian Missions, the State government authorities, Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs for ensuring their safe passage back to India.
- (vi) Further, in order to ensure the protection and welfare of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with UAE in December 2006, and with Kuwait in April 2007. An additional protocol with Qatar was signed in November 2007 to update the 1985 Agreement with that country. MoU with Malaysia has been finalised. Such MoUs with Bahrain, Oman and Yemen are underway. These MoUs and Agreements provide for a broad framework for cooperation in Labour and Employment and also provide for Joint Working Groups of senior officers from both sides as an effective grievance redressal mechanism for better protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers.
- (vii) Wide publicity campaigns, both in electronic and print media, have been taken up by this Ministry for educating the workers on the emigration procedures.

Statement-I**2005-2007**

Sl. No.	Country	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	U.A.E.	194412	254774	312695
2.	Saudi Arabia	99897	134059	195437
3.	Malaysia	71041	36500	30916
4.	Qatar	50222	76324	88483
5.	Oman	40931	67992	95462

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Kuwait	39124	47449	48467
7.	Bahrain	30060	37688	29966
8.	Maldives	3423	4671	ECNR
9.	Mauritius	1965	1795	ECNR
10.	Jordan	1851	1485	1254
11.	Libya	—	—	3223
	Others	15945	14175	3550
Total		548853	676912	809453

Statement-II**Workers in Gulf Countries**

Baharain	2,60,400
Qatar	2,00,000
Oman	3,84,961
Kuwait	5,49,080
UAE	1,40,000
Saudi Arabia	14,25,252
Total	42,19,693

*[Translation]***Centrally Sponsored Schemes
in Rajasthan**

5201. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented in Rajasthan during the last three years till date;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has reviewed these schemes;

(c) if so, the outcome of the review; and

(d) the amount of funds released for the implementation of the said schemes during the last three years, year-wise, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (d) List of Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes implemented in Rajasthan during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and scheme-wise amount of funds received by Government of Rajasthan for their implementation during the referred three years is given in statement.

(b) and (c) Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms for such schemes have been created at different levels of Central and State Governments as part of the programme guidelines of each scheme. Review of Centrally Sponsored. Schemes is also done by the Planning Commission during the Annual Plan discussions of the State. Such latest discussions in respect of Rajasthan were held in January, 2008 to finalise the State's Annual Plan 2008-09.

Statement**Annual Plan 2004-2005, Rajasthan Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Head/Sub Head of Development	Funds Released by GOI (as reported by the State Government)
1	2	3
I.	Agriculture and Allied Service	
i.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme	231.25
ii.	ISOPOM	2000.00
iii.	Estt. of state pesticide testing lab	45.00
iv.	Work Plan	1697.95
2.	Horticulture Development	
i.	Work Plan	573.77
ii.	Human Resources Development	1.99
3.	Soil Conservation	
a.	Through Water shed Development	
i.	National Water shed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas	4949.94
ii.	Rajasthan State land and water use Board	7.28
b.	Through Forest Department	
i.	River Valley Project—Chambal, Dantiwara and Kadana	830.50
ii.	River Valley Project—Sahibi/Banas	855.00
4.	Animal Husbandry	
i.	ASCAD	204.42
ii.	Sample Survey for Estimation of Livestock Production	57.04
iii.	Veterinary Council	32.50
iv.	National Proj. on Rinder Pest	20.00

1	2	3
	v. Livestock Census	240.00
	vi. Development of Carcus Utilisation	258.75
5.	Fisheries	
	i. Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics	17.35
	ii. Development of Fresh Water Acqaculture	6.75
	iii. National Scheme of Welfare of Fisherman	10.00
6.	Forestry	
	i. Tiger Proiect Ranthambore	241.06
	ii. Tiger Proiect Sariska	98.64
	iii. Development of Ghana Bird Sanctuary	67.46
	iv. Desert National Park	38.78
	v. Maintenance of other Sanctuaries	200.55
	vi. Sambhar Lake Proiect	84.66
	vii. Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	37.50
7.	Cooperation	
	i. Loan to Spinfed (NCDC)	1056.97
	ii. Scheme for Integrated Coop. Dev. Proiect	309.79
	iii. Work Plan	78.00
II.	Rural Development	
1.	Swarn Jayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana	
	i. SGSY	2941.56
	ii. SGSY—Special Proiect Inclid. Rural Haat	628.89
	iii. IGPRS RDI (SIRD)	37.06
2.	Desert Development Programme	11004.17
3.	S.G.R.Y.	14564.97
4.	Integrated Wasteland Develooment Proiect	2121.18
5.	Drought Prone Area Programme	1573.77

1	2	3
6.	MP Local Area Programme	6650.00
7.	National Food for Work Programme	3532.69
8.	Land Reforms	
a.	Agriculture Census	31.00
b.	Board of Revenue	
i.	Croo Estimation—Survey of Fruits and Vegetable	15.25
9.	Indira Awaas Yojana	4876.07
10.	DRDA—Administration	1412.21
11.	WCD—IWEP	25.00
III.	Irrigation and Flood Control	
1.	Agriculture Census-Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics	8.08
2.	CAD (All)	4152.00
V.	Industry and Mineral	
1.	Industry Department	
i.	Census of small scale Ind.-Collection of Data/Mont./Eva.	35.00
ii.	Workshed cum housing	51.71
iii.	Commission on Sale of the H.L. Cloth	38.12
iv.	Enforcement (establishment)	23.41
v.	PMRY	89.82
vi.	Deen Dayal Hath Kargha Protsahan Yojana	43.37
vii.	New Insurance for H.L.Weavers	2.61
2.	RIICO	
i.	Development of Growth Centre	800.00
ii.	EPIP Neemrana	458.60
VII.	Transport—PWD	
ii.	PMGSY	6485517

1	2	3
VIII.	Scientific Services and Research	
	i. Rajasthan State Council on Science and Technology	40.60
	ii. CAPE Project	11.31
VIII.	Economic Services	
	A. Economics and Statistics Department	
	i. Timely Reporting Scheme for Estimation of Area and Production of Crops	31.46
	ii. Improvement of Crop Statistics	18.11
	iii. Economic Census	190.37
	B. Tourism	
	i. Development of Tourist Sites	1184.35
	ii. Information Technology	12.50
IX.	Social and Community Services	
	A. Education	
	1. Elementary Education	
	i. Integrated Edu. for Disabled Children	27.58
	ii. Chhabra Project (PIED)	15.02
	iii. Distt. Institute of Education and Training—DIET	1505.01
	2. Secondary Education	
	i. English Integrated Shiksha	6.00
	ii. Estt. of Institute of Advance Study in Edu./Centre for Teacher Education	106.91
	iii. Integrated Education Disable Children (IEDC)	24.95
	3. Language and Library Department	5.00
	4. College Education—N.S.S.	200.00
	5. Sports Department	20.73
	B. Medical and Health	
	1. Medical and Health Services	
	i. National Malaria Eradication Programme (in kinds)	835.23

1	2	3
	ii. National Leprosy Eradication Programme	25.00
	iii. National Blindness Control Prog.	222.29
	iv. National T.B. Control Programme (In kinds)	64.93
	v. Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh	10100
	vi. Trauma Units at National Highways	116.80
2.	Population Control and Family Welfare	
	National Family Welfare Programme	17898.76
3.	Ayurved Department	
	i. Streng. of Government Ayurvedice Pharmacy	55.00
	ii. Estt. of Drug Testing Lab.	20.00
	iii. Purchase of Drugs/Medicines	5.57
	iv. Purchase of Essential Drugs/Medicines for Remote areas	382.00
	v. Grant in Aid to Private Colleges	12.93
C.	Sewerage and Water Supply	
	i. Normal ARWSP	20402.58
	ii. Desert ARWSP	8847.90
	iii. AUWSP (Urban)	886.51
	iv. Others—Rural	4530.83
	v. Monitoring and Investilgation Cell	24.22
E.	Urban Development	
1.	Town Planning	
	i. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns	697.62
	ii. Planning and Monitoring Cell (NCR)	10.65
2.	Local Bodies	
	i. Swam Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana	256.29
F.	Labour and Labour Welfare	
1.	Employment	
	i. Special Employment Cell for Physically Handicapped Persons	9.07

1	2	3
	ii. Special Cell in Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped Persons	46.57
2.	Bonded labour	1.00
G.	Welfare of Backward Classes	
1.	Welfare of Scheduled Castes-Education	
	i. Post-Matric Scholarships	1220.91
	ii. Pre Matric Scholarships to Students whose Parents are Engaged in Uncleaned Occupations	63.88
	iii. Protection of Civil Right Act	200.00
2.	Welfare of Scheduled Tribes-Education	
	i. Post-Matric Scholarship	1792.57
3.	SCA to Special Component Plan	2366.68
	I. Social Welfare—Juvenile-Justice Act	11.95
J.	Nutrition—ICDS	11863.17
x.	General Services	
	i. Police Modernisation	700.00
	ii. Jail-Modernisation of Prison Administration	1954.50
	iii. Judicial Information technology	40.45
	iv. Civil Defence	135.42

Annual Plan 2005-2006, Rajasthan Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Head/Sub Head of Development	Funds Released by GOI (as reported by the State Government)
1	2	3
I.	Agriculture and Allied Service	
1.	Agriculture Department	
	i. Intensive Cotton Development Programme	392.87

1	2	3
	ii. ISOPOM	2840.00
	iii. ATMA	231.00
	iv. Work Plan	2592.53
	v. Other Minor Scheme	4.68
3.	Soil Conservation	
	i. NWDPRA	3515.42
4.	Animal Husbandry	
	i. ASCAD	267.04
	ii. Sample Survey for Estimation of Livestock Production	64.11
	iii. Veterinary Council	17.50
	iv. National Proj. on Rinder Pest	30.00
	v. Livestock Census	6.00
5.	Fisheries	
	i. Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics	17.92
	ii. Development of Fresh Water Acqaculture	3.75
	iii. National Scheme of Welfare of Fisherman	27.20
	iv. Fisheries Training and Ext.	1.80
6.	Forestry	
	i. Tiger Project Ranthambore	142.05
	ii. Tiger Protect Sariska	127.00
	iii. Development of Ghana Bird Sanctuary	15.50
	iv. Development of Desert National Park	16.50
	v. Maintenance of other Sanctuaries	172.81
	vi. Sambhar Lake Project	4.00
	vii. Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	100.00
b.	Soil Conservation Sector	1862.25

1	2	3
7.	Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation	406.99
8.	Cooperation	
	i. Loan to Spinfed (NCDC)	614.46
	ii. Scheme for Integrated Coop. Dev. Project	666.23
II.	Rural Development	
1.	Swarn Jayanti Gramin Swarojgar Yojana	
	i. SGSY	4131.73
	ii. IGPRS	35.11
2.	Desert Development Programme	13190.19
3.	S.G.R.Y.	17945.03
4.	Integrated Wasteland Development Project	2401.66
5.	Drought Prone Area Programme	1712.30
6.	MP Local Area Programme	7100.00
7.	National Food for Work Programme	7866.58
8.	Agriculture Census	20.75
9.	Board of Revenue	
	i. Strengthening of Revenue Administration	600.00
	ii. Land Record—Computerisation	1332.20
	iii. Crop Estimation—Survey of Fruits and Vegetable	11.50
10.	PURA	130.00
11.	Indira Awaas Yojana	6589.94
12.	NREGS	3982.11
13.	Mid-Day Meal	11776.18
14.	DRDA—Administration	1340.93
15.	Panchayati Raj Department	132.00
16.	WCD—IWEP	180.00

1	2	3
III. Irrigation and Flood Control		
1.	Agriculture Census-Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics	10.90
2.	CAD (All)	2000.64
IV. Industry and Minerals		
i.	Census of small scale Ind.-Collection of Data/Mont./Eva.	8.90
ii.	Cluster Development	5.00
iii.	Workshed cum housing	26.63
iv.	Commission on Sale of the H.L. Cloth	71.53
v.	PMRY	109.97
vi.	New Insurance for H.L. Weavers	2.81
vii.	Scheme through DC (Handloom/Handicraft)	7.50
viii.	Thrift Fund Scheme	1.50
V. Transport		
i.	Inter State Roads	728.00
ii.	PMGSY	42514.00
iii.	Agriculture Marketing Board	12.00
VI. Scientific Services and Research		
i.	CAPE Project	12.92
ii.	STED Project	2.42
VII. Economic Services		
A. Economics and Statistics Department		
i.	Timely Reporting Scheme for Estimation of Area and Production of Crops	36.00
ii.	Improvement of Crop Statistics	13.50
iii.	Economic Census	277.15
B. Food and Civil Supply		
i.	Modernising and Strengthening of Consumer Distt. Forum and State Commission	45.00

1	2	3
C. Tourism		
i.	Development of Tourist Sites	2282.07
ii.	Information Technology	21.98
VIII. Social and Community Services		
A. Education		
1. Elementary Education		
i.	Integrated Edu. for Disabled Children	12.80
ii.	Distt. Institute of Education and Training—DIET	2412.69
iii.	Strengthening of SIERT	22.00
2. Secondary Education		
i.	English Integrated Shiksha SIERT Udaipur	6.00
ii.	Integrated Education Disable Children (IEDC)	49.55
iii.	Award to Scholarship to Students of Higher/High School Studying. Sanskrit	84.80
iv.	District Centre for English	2.50
v.	Upgradation of Merit SC/ST	24.43
vi.	Information and Communication Technology	500.00
vii.	National Scholorship at Sec. Stage for talented Children in rural Area	11.85
3. Archives		
4. Archeology and Museum		
i.	Regional and Local Museums streng. Scheme	18.75
5. College Education—N.S.S./National Scholarship		
269.00		
B. Medical and Health		
1. Medical and Health Services		
i.	National Malaria Eradication Programme (In kinds)	654.12
ii.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	17.00
iii.	National T.B. Control Programme (In kinds)	42.18

1	2	3
	iv. Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh	100.00
	v. Drug Testing Laboratory	4.00
2.	Population Control and Family Welfare—NFWP	14442.48
3.	Ayurved Department	
	i. Streng. of Government Ayurvedice Pharmacy	325.00
	ii. Purchase of Essential Drugs/Medicines for Remote areas	171.25
	iii. Reorientation Programme	4.66
	iv. ISM and H Wing	910.00
	v. Streng. of enforcement Mechanism in State Ouality control	10.43
C.	Sewerage and Water Supply	
	i. Normal ARWSP	35891.34
	ii. Desert ARWSP	12594.00
	iii. AUWSP (Urban)	31.77
	iv. Monitoring and Investigation Cell	26.21
	v. Rural Drinking Water Supply (Due to Drought)	650.00
	vi. Others	373.11
E.	Urban Development	
1.	Town Planning	
	i. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns	392.78
2.	Local Bodies	
	i. Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana	495.38
G.	Welfare of Backward Classes	
I.	Welfare of Scheduled Castes-Education	
	i. Post-Matric Scholarships	1508.34
	ii. Book Bank for Medical and Engineering College Students	17.50
	iii. Pre-Matric Scholarships to Students Whose Parents are Engaged in Uncleaned Occupations	31.94

1	2	3
	iv. Protection of Civil Right Act	70.00
	v. Const. of College level Building	96.75
2.	Welfare of Scheduled Tribes—Education	
	i. Post-Matric Scholarship	1261.97
	ii. Protection of Civil Right Act.	17.00
3.	Welfare of Other Backward Classes	
	i. Post Matric Scholarship	235.24
4.	SCA to Special Component Plan	3328.75
H.	Social Welfare—Juvenile-Justice Act	47.02
I.	Nutrition—ICDS	14150.82
IX.	General Services	
	i. Police Modernisation (Incl. kinds)	2565.97
	ii. Civil Defence	105.00

Annual Plan 2006-2007, Rajasthan Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.	Head/Sub Head of Development	Funds Released by GOI (as reported by the State Government)
1	2	3
I.	Agriculture and Allied Service	
1.	Agriculture Department	
	i. Intensive Cotton Development Programme	548.11
	ii. ISOPOM	2934.50
	iii. Work Plan	3155.68
	iv. Other Minor Scheme	170.76

1	2	3
2.	Horticulture	
	i. National Horticulture Mission	3837.93
	ii. Micro Irrigation Scheme	3881.36
3.	Soil Conservation	
	i. NWDPPRA	3275.80
4.	Animal Husbandry	
	i. ASCAD	257.00
	ii. Sample Survey for Estimation of Livestock Products	56.25
	iii. Veterinary Council	25.00
	iv. RP Survey Pest Project	15.00
	v. Feed and Fodder Demonstration	33.00
5.	Fisheries	
	i. Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture	44.05
	ii. Strengthening of Database and Information Networking for Fisheries	9.07
	iii. National Scheme of Welfare of Fisherman	31.36
	iv. Fisheries Training and Extension	6.95
6.	Forestry	
A.	Through Forest Department	
	i. Tiger Project, Ranthambore	126.54
	ii. Tiger Project, Sariska	50.06
	iii. Development of Ghana Bird Sanctuary	44.73
	iv. Development of Desert National Park	21.53
	v. Maintenance of other Sanctuaries	141.40
	vi. Sambhar Wet Land Project	61.45
	vii. Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	100.07
b.	Soil Conservation Sector	2405.99

1	2	3
7.	Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation	70.40
8.	Cooperation	
i.	Loan to Spinfed (NCDC)	189.90
ii.	Scheme for Integrated Coop. Dev. Project	2377.70
iii.	Loan to construction of Godowns	1733.74
9.	Raj. Rajya Bhomi Vikas Bank Ltd.	1090.69
II.	Rural Development	
1.	Swam Jayanti Gramin Swarojgar Yojana	3784.99
2.	Desert Development Programme	15720.91
3.	S.G.R.Y.	15960.83
4.	Integrated Wasteland Development Project	4276.31
5.	Drought Prone Area Programme	2582.22
6.	MP Local Area Programme	6131.19
7.	Land Reforms	
a.	Agriculture Census	34.00
b.	Board of Revenue	
i.	Land Record—Computerisation	414.00
ii.	Crop Estimation—Survey of Fruits and Vegetable	11.00
8.	Indira Awaas Yojana	6617.51
9.	NREGS	76161.00
10.	Mid-Day Meal	19087.03
11.	DRDA—Administration	1467.05
12.	Panchayati Raj Department	300.00
13.	WCD-IWEP	200.00
III.	Irrigation and Flood Control	
1.	Agriculture Census-Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics	19.42
2.	CAD (All)	1143.79

1	2	3
IV. Industry and Minerals		
i.	Census of small scale Ind.-Collection of Data/Mont./Eva.	40.07
ii.	Commission on Sale of the H.L. Cloth	125.55
iii.	PMRY	135.28
iv.	Deen Dayal Hath Kargha Protsahan Yojana	40.45
v.	New Insurance for H.L. Weavers	0.92
vi.	Weights and Measures	30.00
vii.	Improvement of Link Road Connecting Industrial Area Khushkera to NH 8 and Chopanki to SH-25	750.00
V. Transport		
i.	Inter State Roads	667.00
ii.	PMGSY	104592.00
VI. Scientific Services and Research		
i.	State Council	32.77
ii.	CAPE Project	18.59
VII. Economic Services		
A. Economics and Statistics Department		
i.	Timely Reporting Scheme for Estimation of Area and Production of Crops	40.50
ii.	Improvement of Crop Statistics	14.00
iii.	Economic Census	40.95
B. Tourism		
i.	Development of Tourist Sites	712.06
ii.	Tourist Information and Publicity	23.00
VIII. Social and Community Services		
A. Education		
1. Elementary Education		
i.	Integrated Edu. for Disabled Children	39.69

1	2	3
	ii. Distt. Institute of Education and Training—DIET	1847.50
2.	Secondary Education	
	i. English Integrated Shiksha SIERT Udaipur	5.00
	ii. Estt. of Institute of Advance Study in Edu./Centre tor Teacher Education	272.26
	iii. District Centre for English	9.58
	iv. National Scholarship at Sec. Stage for talented Children in rural Area	37.05
4.	College Education	
	i. N.S.S.	264.00
5.	Sports Department	
	i. Jhalawar Stadium	31.79
	ii. Youth Hostel	3.20
	iii. Kuchaman City (Nagaur)	14.00
	iv. Davgard School	0.05
B.	Medica' and Health	
1.	Medical and Health Services	
	i. Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh	100.00
2.	Population Control and Family Welfare	
A.	National Family Welfare Programme	
1.	Training centre of ANM	778.74
2.	Health and Family Welfare tranning Centre	64.13
3.	Urban Family Welfare Centre	597.17
4.	Rural Sub Centre	9394.85
5.	Sterilisation of Beds	1.48
6.	Direction and Administrative	1665.99
7.	Kind	1582.67

1	2	3
3. Ayurved Department		
	i. Purchase of Essential Drugs (Medicines for Remote areas)	864.75
	ii. Grant In Aid to Private Colleges	12.00
	iii. Reorientation Programme	6.66
IV.	Streng. of enforcement Mechanism in State Quality control	2.84
C. Sewerage and Water Supply		
	i. Normal ARWSP	37140.16
	ii. Desert ARWSP	10794.94
	iii. AUWSP (Urban)	788.96
	iv. Rural Drinking Water Supply (Due to Drought)	500.00
	v. Others	4049.62
E. Urban Development		
1. Town Planning		
	i. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns	336.79
	ii. Planning and Monitoring Cell (NCR)	11.01
2. Local Bodies		
	i. Swam Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana	852.93
F. Labour and Labour Welfare		
1.	Factories and Boilers	10.33
2.	Craftsman Training Scheme (ITI)	96.72
G. Social Justice and Empowerment Deptt.		
Welfare of Backward Classes		
1. Welfare of Scheduled Castes-Education		
	i. Post-Matric Scholarships	3804.48
	ii. Scholarships to children of Scavengers	103.31
	iii. Protection of Civil Right Act	7.87

1	2	3
	vii. Construction of Boys Hostel Building	167.40
2.	Welfare of Scheduled Tribes—Education	
	i. Post-Matric Scholarship	2976.22
	ii. Construction of Boys Hostel Building	62.75
	iii. Construction of Girls Hostel Building	17.50
	iv. Protection of Civil Right Act.	13.13
	v. Construction of College Level Hostel Building	96.75
3.	Welfare of Other Backward Classes	
	i. Post Matric Scholarship	351.80
4.	SCA to Special Component Plan	4048.51
5.	Social Welfare	
	i. Juvenile—Justice Act	15.36
H.	Tribal Area Development	
	i. Running of TRI Scheme	27.26
	ii. Development of PTG	12.50
I.	Nutrition—ICDS	23527.25
IX.	General Services	
	i. Jail Modernisation	763.83
	ii. Police Modernisation (Incl. kinds)	2857.17
	iii. Civil Defence	70.43

[English]

Shortage of Water in Bird Sanctuaries and Lakes

5202. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether bird sanctuaries, lakes and parks are

facing shortage of water in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

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

(c) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to get sufficient water in these sanctuaries, lakes and parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Mostly all the bird sanctuaries, lakes and parks depend on rainfall for water. Due to fluctuations in precipitation, water availability keeps on changing from time to time. However, except Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, no other State/UT Government has reported shortage of water in bird sanctuaries.

(c) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes—Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and National Lake Conservation Plan for various activities aimed at the conservation and development of Protected Areas and lakes including augmentation of water supply. To maintain the wetland character of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, 550 million cubic feet of water is required annually. As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, the wetland character of the Park can be maintained by harnessing about 200 million cubic feet of water from Chiksana canal and Ajan dam and about 350 million cubic feet of water through the proposed Govardhan drain project. In addition, about 310 million cubic feet of water per year for initial four years and about 62.5 million cubic feet of water per year after four years would also be made available to the Park from the Dholpur-Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project.

National Social Service Scheme

5203. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities and colleges and other educational institutions in the country implementing the National Social Service (NSS) Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of works undertaken by the students

under the NSS Scheme particularly in the rural areas;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for getting the works done under the NSS Scheme;

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

(e) the criteria laid down for the release of funds and the achievement of the Scheme in harnessing development of personality of students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) The work undertaken by the students under NSS programmes includes tree plantation, blood donation, repair/construction of link roads, health and sanitation awareness campaigns in regard to HIV/AIDS, adolescent issues, health and family welfare programmes, disaster management, adoption of villages/slum for overall development, immunization, medical checkup camps, literacy programmes etc.

(c) The guidelines of the scheme have been published in the NSS Manual, which is available with all the NSS units in country.

(d) National Service Scheme, is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, being implemented by this Ministry with its primary focus on the development of personality of the students through community service and to develop character and personality of student youth in schools and colleges. The scheme is implemented through the State Governments and the operations of NSS are at the University/Colleges and Higher Secondary School level.

(e) The criteria for the release of funds are based on the allocated strength of volunteers for the same year and settlement of previous accounts. The funds released under the scheme during the year 2007-08 are Rs. 48.67 crores.

Statement

State	Universities with NSS	Colleges with NSS	Boards/Councils/ Directorate of Technical Education with NSS	Schools with NSS	No. of Institutions with NSS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	17	419	2	757	8
UT of Daman and Diu	0	2	1	3	1
UT Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	8	1
Karnataka	9	754	4	1325	211
Madhya Pradesh	7	599	1	641	12
Chhattisgarh	3	262	1	695	2
Orissa	10	1253	1	16	37
Punjab	6	361	1	498	53
Himachal Pradesh	3	136	1	232	6
Jammu and Kashmir	3	65	1	22	3
U.T. Chandigarh	2	29	—	38	3
Tamil Nadu	34	1018	4	1780	248
Pondicherry	1	29	1	78	5
Andaman and Nicobar	0	2	0	0	0
Delhi	7	57	1	170	10
Haryana	8	410	1	440	10
Arunachal Pradesh	1	11	1	34	4
Assam	5	469	1	—	12
Manipur	0	60	2	36	2
Meghalaya	1	32	1	4	0
Mizoram	0	23	0	35	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
Nagaland	1	34	7	6	1
Tripura	1	23	1	211	3
Andhra Pradesh	15	2987	269	0	269
Rajasthan	12	458	2	771	25
West Bengal	13	310	1	153	2
Sikkim	—	1	1	54	2
Uttar Pradesh	17	950	14	365	57
Uttaranchal	6	108	2	244	17
Bihar	9	307	0	Not introduced at school level	0
Jharkhand	3	75	0	Not introduced at school level	1
Maharashtra	20	1780	3	237	110
Goa	1	27	1	72	0
Kerala	8	393	3	584	51
Lakshadweep	0	0	1	2	0
Total	223	13444	63	9511	1169

Review of Environmental Laws

5204. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the existing environmental laws including a withdrawal of mandatory environmental clearance ahead of modernization of airports and ports as reported in the 'Mint' dated March, 07, 2008;

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

(c) whether the environmental activists have opposed such move of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reasons given by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The environmental clearances are accorded to developmental projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 which has been enacted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The schedule of the Environmental

Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 lists various activities, which include Airports at item 7(a) and Ports and Harbours at item 7(e), and there is no proposal to delete any of the entries of the schedule. No decision has been taken regarding environmental clearance for the modernization of airports as on date.

(c) No formal representation has been received with respect to environmental clearance for modernization of airports.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of the reply to the part (c) above.

**Corruption Charges against
IAS/IPS/IRS Officers**

5205. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to IAS, IPS and IRS or their allied services booked on corruption charges during the last calendar year, till date;

(b) the impact created on the morale of their services as a result thereof;

(c) whether the corruption continues unabated in these services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Central Vigilance Commission has received 250 cases of IAS/IPS/IRS and allied services for 1st stage advice during the last calendar year and till March, 2008. The Commission has advised for major penalty proceedings in 77 cases, minor penalty proceedings in 26 cases and prosecution in 33 cases. The Central Vigilance Commission reviews the position regarding vigilance management in Government

Departments/PSUs constantly through various mechanisms like monthly reports and by conducting meetings with the Chief Vigilance Officers of various organizations at regular intervals. Whenever, a systemic lacunae leading to possibility of manipulations or corrupt activities by public servants comes to the Commission's notice, appropriate guidelines are issued to plug such loopholes and to ensure effective vigilance administration. Depending on the outcome of investigation in individual cases, appropriate action as per law and/or relevant disciplinary rules are taken against the concerned officers.

[Translation]

**Upkeep of Parks/Sanctuaries/
Protected Forests**

5206. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the national parks/wildlife sanctuaries/protected forests are in a bad condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from various States for the development and upkeep of these sanctuaries/national zoological parks etc. during the last three years including the current year; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the steps being taken to accord approval to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There are 658 Protected Areas in the country. As per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, the responsibility for management of National Parks/Sanctuaries lies primarily with the concerned State/UT Governments. There are no reports of systematic and comprehensive evaluation of all the Protected Areas in the country to assess the overall condition. However, due to severe biotic interferences, large number of Protected Areas in India are under pressure.

(c) and (d) Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Union Government provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments for the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes—Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant. Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of other procedural requirement. State-wise

details of fund released under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three financial years are in Statement-I, II and III. Similarly, the details of fund released to National Zoological Park, Delhi by the Central Government during the last three financial years are in Statement-IV. During the current financial year i.e. 2008-09, proposals only in respect of Simlipal Tiger Reserve, Orissa and Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, under the Scheme "Project Tiger", have been received.

Statement-I

Details of Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries"

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State/UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	63.55	57.75	82.86
Andhra Pradesh	104.245	143.238	168.06
Arunachal Pradesh	144.845	78.602	125.05
Assam	193.205	161.79	81.78
Bihar	—	10.50	4.00
Chandigarh	—	—	0.00
Chhattisgarh	359.817	377.863	379.20
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.00	14.50	11.78
Goa	14.40	5.00	31.59
Gujarat	275.93	328.675	332.08
Haryana	24.20	60.45	70.03
Himachal Pradesh	283.83806	261.56	233.32
Jammu and Kashmir	113.50	173.68	221.54
Jharkhand	124.90	98.54	98.13
Karnataka	474.9931	490.582	630.64

1	2	3	4
Kerala	284.5412	362.115	493.574
Madhya Pradesh	613.553	759.46	800.92
Maharashtra	241.68	223.855	331.33
Manipur	101.03	96.986	105.89
Meghalaya	59.30	38.20	64.88
Mizoram	221.28	136.066	169.46
Nagaland	1.50	16.38	19.11
Orissa	325.649	340.855	357.08
Punjab	—	3.00	0.00
Rajasthan	192.62	207.665	347.24
Sikkim	118.84	140.376	159.22
Tamil Nadu	197.20	205.24	274.64
Tripura	—	31.60	36.00
Uttar Pradesh	345.63	290.38	332.36
Uttaranchal	85.65	100.12	76.67
West Bengal	313.9437	357.225	356.22
Delhi	19.50	—	0.00
Daman and Diu			4.721
Total	5319.34	5572.252	6399.36

Statement-II*Details of Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Tiger"*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Tiger Reserve Range State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	68.7928	46.675	73.92

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	172.418	237.3725	10.25
Assam	86.4896	87.431	95.61
Bihar	6.4918	69.9554	98.32
Chhattisgarh	24.3343	110.00	35.23
Karnataka	453.2246	286.277	1159.71
Kerala	116.1708	109.00	153.24
Jharkhand	164.1784	1155.967	45.16
Madhya Pradesh	777.2676	197.942	2975.94
Maharashtra	334.19	238.56	295.72
Mizoram	65.156	115.16	82.90
Orissa	107.0024	183.8717	43.28
Rajasthan	281.2458	176.541	410.68
Tamil Nadu	136.9528	108.535	45.40
Tripura	0.50	--	0.00
Uttaranchal	159.9212	192.78	202.005
Uttar Pradesh	162.8782	183.265	134.89
West Bengal	228.2935	190.5283	308.67
Total	3345.507	3289.860	6270.94

Statement-III**Details of Funds Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant"**

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	60.00	64.774	60.00
Arunachal Pradesh	71.50	53.00	54.50
Assam	40.00	83.00	144.00

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	75.00	74.446	132.17
Karnataka	168.00	167.82	212.65
Kerala	170.00	169.40	147.70
Maharashtra	--	--	56.86
Meghalaya	30.00	61.55	68.39
Nagaland	48.00	52.45	26.60
Orissa	114.00	153.94	148.50
Tamil Nadu	112.00	153.41	124.98
Uttaranchal	82.00	153.12	126.46
West Bengal	181.00	160.89	185.73
Tripura	0.00	--	12.00
Mizoram	0.00	--	1.33
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	6.20	55.33
Chhattisgarh			83.77
Total	1151.50	1354.00	1640.963

Statement-IV

Details of funds released to National Zoological Park, Delhi during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
105.7	77.00	188.00

Decline of Profit in Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

5207. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
 PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
 SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit graph of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) is on the continuous decline during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the profit earned by the NPCIL during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same and increase the profit of NPCIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total installed nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe comprises of 4020 MWe capacity owned by

NPCIL and 100 MWe (RAPS-1) owned by DAE, Government of India. Out of 4120 MWe, 3800 MWe is fuelled by indigenous natural uranium. Currently, there is a mismatch in the demand and supply of indigenous uranium. As a result, this capacity is being operated at lower power level matching fuel supply. Consequently the profits of NPCIL have declined. The details of Profit (After Tax) of NPCIL in the last three years are as under:

Year	Profit After Tax (Rs. crore)
2005-06	1713
2006-07	1571
2007-08	964*

*Based on Provisional Estimates. To be audited and finalized.

(c) Efforts have been made by the Government by way of opening of new mines and augmenting processing facilities to augment fuel supply to enable higher capacity utilization of NPCIL. The work on setting up a new ore-processing mill at Turamdih in Jharkhand has been completed and the production is expected in the year 2008-09. Work has also started on a new uranium mine at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

Functioning of National Medical Library

5208. SHRI K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints about the poor functioning of the National Medical Library (NML);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Sir, the Department has received, few complaints through print media as

well as from doctors which basically relate to lack of basic amenities and infrastructure at National Medical Library (NML). These complaints have been looked into at appropriate level and suitable/remedial actions have been taken as deemed necessary.

[Translation]

Strengthening of NH-29 (E)

5209. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the National Highway No. 29 (E) linking Gorakhpur and Sonauli;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) to (d) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up depending upon availability of fund and inter-se-priority. It is too early to indicate the time of start of strengthening work of National Highway No. 29 (E). However, this National Highway is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

[English]

Distorted Map of India

5210. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the website of UNAIOS carries a distorted map of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the concerned organization; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The India country page on the website of the UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) carried a map of India which did not show the northern and southern parts of the country. The Permanent Mission of India to the Offices of the United Nations, Geneva, took up the matter with the Secretariat of the UNAIDS. The issue has been rectified and the entire map of India, along with the standard disclaimer used by the United Nations that the boundaries, names and designations shown on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations, is now posted on the India country page of the UNAIDS website.

**Conversion of Forest Villages
into Revenue Villages**

5211. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of forest villages converted into

revenue villages in the country, State-wise;

(b) the policy adopted by the Government to convert the forest villages into revenue villages along with the necessary criteria; and

(c) the steps taken to include villages under forest-village category, which were settled before 1981 itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) So far, 511 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages in 4 States of the Country under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details are enclosed at statement.

(b) and (c) The present policy of the Central Government is guided by the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which *inter-alia* provides for "rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages, and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages."

Statement

As on 22-04-2008

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of District	No. of Villages Converted so far	Approved Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gujarat	Panch Mahal	112	4238.43
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	67	3692.433
		Chindwada	48	4630.725
		Dewas	13	1001.381
		Dindori	86	11088.611
		Guna	1	88.539
		Khargone	67	8893.747

1	2	3	4	5
		Raisen	11	167.536
		Rajgarh	1	44.499
		Sagar	4	163.424
		Sidhi	12	235.446
		Vidisha	5	106.866
3.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	73	4073.95
4.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	11	2561.22
		Total	511	40986.807

Luxury Cruise Services

5212. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether there has been a considerable decline in the number of sea-route passengers;

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

(c) whether a policy on cruise-shipping has been formulated and approved;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce Luxury Cruise services in the country on the pattern in Europe and other developed Western countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the number of cruise tourists who visited India was 27,760, 1,52,827 and 2,40,307 respectively.

(c) to (f) A High Power Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways with the Union Minister of Tourism and Culture as Co-Chairperson was set upto formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective of making India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularising cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment. The cruise shipping policy is under finalization.

[Translation]

Computerisation of RTOs

5213. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to computerise all Regional Transport Offices in the country and create data Bank to link all the RTOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the regulatory mechanism in this regard;

(c) whether such steps help the Government to check vehicle theft in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the vehicle theft including the mandatory installation of devices on the vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) and (b) The Department of Road Transport and Highways has already made rules for issuance of Driving Licence and Registration Certificate in Smart Card mode. Computerisation of R.T.Os is a pre-requisite for this purpose. Various States are at different stages of computerisation of R.T.Os. However, to assist the States, the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Road Transport and Highways) has recently approved a proposal for interlinking of all R.T.Os in the country and creation of a data base of Driving Licences and Registration Certificates at a total cost of around Rs. 148.00 crores, which *inter-alia* also included computerisation of R.T.Os in the country. The project will be implemented by National Informatics Centre and monitored by a National Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (RT and H).

(c) and (d) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and State Crime Record Bureaus (SCRBs) can access these data bases for investigative purposes.

(e) No specific anti-theft instrument has been made mandatory by the Government for fitment in motor vehicles, so far. At the same time, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 does not debar fitment of security gadgets in the motor vehicles.

[English]

Funds Released under Campa

5214. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from various State Governments for release

of funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of amount released and utilised by the, State Governments for Afforestation under CAMPA, during the aforesaid period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The details of the proposals received from various State/Union Territory Governments in Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) since it was set up in May, 2006, are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No funds have been released to the State/ Union Territory Governments, as the Ad-hoc CAMPA has not been authorised to do so by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Statement

Proposals received from States/Union Territories requesting for release of funds for Compensatory Afforestation during the last three years

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Amount requested for release
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17,696,868.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,944,487,000.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,152,195,788.00
4.	Assam	14,857,119.00
5.	Chandigarh	6,043,874.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	118,843,987.00
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil
8.	Delhi	Nil

1	2	3
9.	Goa	6,929,907.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	86,456,218.00
11.	Karnataka	124,702,000.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	605,761,769.00
13.	Maharashtra	262,486,153.80
14.	Manipur	8,715,000.00
15.	Meghalaya	4,582,957.00
16.	Nagaland	Nil
17.	Pondicherry	Nil
18.	Punjab	486,801,424.00
19.	Rajasthan	1,333,687,330.00
20.	Sikkim	55,262,314.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	22,134,196.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	185,125,000.00
23.	Uttarakhand	254,464,506.00
24.	West Bengal	229,452,642.00

**Illegal Mining Activities in
Maharashtra**

5215. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal sand mining is being carried out on a large scale in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is

being violated in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No such report regarding large scale illegal sand mining from the forest areas of the country, including State of Maharashtra has come to the notice. However, sporadic incidences of theft do take place which are dealt with according to the provisions of the relevant Acts and Rules.

(d) No report regarding violation of The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 particularly, with reference to sand mining, has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

Colon/Colorectal Cancer

5216. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people die every year due to colorectal/colon cancer as reported in the *Statesman* dated March 24, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to check such cases in the country and to provide medical help in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Colorectal Cancer is not common in India and is not among the leading cancer sites according to National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research. It is the third most common cancer in man and women representing 13% of all cancer causing 6,55,000 deaths worldwide every year.

(c) and (d) The colorectal cancer is caused by various factors. The treatment is effective if the disease is detected in early stages. The treatment of cancer is by surgery/Radiotherapy/Chemotherapy and supportive care. These facilities are available upto District Hospital/Medical Colleges besides premier Apex institutions including AIIMS. In addition, Radiotherapy facilities are available at 237 centres in India.

[Translation]

NH Projects under NHDP-III A and B

5217. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Highways Development Programme Phase-III A and Phase-III B alongwith the stretches identified under the Programme;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposal for four-laning of National Highways under NHDP-III A and B including the stretch of Chittorgarh to Neemuch;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Status of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III (A and B) is enclosed as Statement-I. List of stretches identified under NHDP Phase-III is enclosed as Statement-II.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Proposals for four-laning of Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11, Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section upto Madhya Pradesh Border of NH-12, Beawar-Pali-Sirohi section of NH-14 and Beawar-Udaipur Section of NH-8 were received from Government of Rajasthan. The stretches namely Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar section of NH-11, Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Sirohi section of NH-14 have been identified for 4-laning under National Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. The stretch from Jhalawar to Madhya Pradesh Border on NH-12 does not qualify for four-laning. Upgradation of Beawar-Udaipur section of NH-8 has not been included in any phase of NHDP. However, preparation of feasibility-cum-preliminary Design Report for 4/6 laning of this section has been taken up.

In the stretch from Chittorgarh to Neemuch, the portion from Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh border to Neemuch is not National Highway. Total length of Chittorgarh-Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh Border Section of NH-79 is 38 km out of which four-laning of 10 km stretch from Chittorgarh has been proposed to be included in the Annual Plan 2008-09.

Statement-I

(status as on 24-04-2008)

1. Approved Length		
Phase III A	—	6658.5 km.
Phase-III B	—	5450.5 km.
Phase III (Total)	—	12109 km.
2. Approval for award		
Phase III (Length)	—	12109 km.
Phase III (Cost)	—	Rs. 80,626 Cr.

3. Status of award

Total No. of projects awarded	—	33 no.
Total length of projects awarded	—	2075 km.
Total Cost of projects awarded	—	Rs. 12,488 Cr.
Balance length for award	—	10034 km.

4. Status of implementation

Total length completed	—	411 km.
Length under implementation	—	1664 km.

Statement-II*List of Stretches identified under NHDP Phase-III*

Sl. No.	NH No.	Stretch Under NHDP Phase-III	Length (Km.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kumool	192.5
2.	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30
3.	205	Tirupati-TN/AP Border-Tiruthani	44
4.	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	240.5
Total :			507
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	52A	Itanagar-Arunachal Pradesh/Assam Border	22
Total :			22
Assam			
1.	36	Doboka-Assam/Nagaland Border	124
2.	44	Assam/Meghalaya Border to Assam/Tripura Border	116
3.	52	Baihata Chariali-Banderdewa	314
4.	52A	Badardewa-Assam/Arunachal Pradesh Border	9

1	2	3	4
5.	54	Silchar-Assam/Mizoram Border	50
Total :			613
Biher			
1.	19 and 77	Patna-Muzzaffarpur	60
2.	19 and 85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153
3.	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67
4.	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53
5.	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255
6.	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13
7.	77	Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	89
8.	80	Mokama-Munger	70
9.	84	Patna-Buxar	130
10.	83	Patna-Gaya-Dobhi	125
Total :			1015
Chhattisgarh			
1.	200	Raipur-Simga	28
2.	43	Kumud-Dhamtari	23
3.	6	Aurang-Raipur	45
4.	6	Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	94
Total :			190
Delhi			
1.	1 and 24	upto Delhi/Uttar Pradesh border	8
2.	10	upto Delhi/Haryana border	20
Total :			28
Goa			
1.	17	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji Goa/KNT Border	139

1	2	3	4
2.	4A	Panaji-Goa/KNT Border	69
			Total :
			208
Gujarat			
1.	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat-Hazira Port	84
2.	6	Surat-Hazira Port	29
3.	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127
4.	59	Gujarat/Madhya Pradesh Border-Ahmedabad	210
5.	8A Ext.	Kandla-Mundra Port	73
			Total :
			523
Haryana			
1.	10	Delhi/Haryana border-Hissar	140
2.	22	Ambala-Kalka (Haryana Portion)	27
3.	71	Rohtak-Bawal	97
4.	71A	Panipat-Rohtak	73
5.	65	Ambala-Kaithal	78
6.	71	Rohtak-Jind	45
7.	73	Panchkula-Barwala-Saha-Yamuna Nagar upto Uttar Pradesh border	108
			Total :
			568
Himachal Pradesh			
1.	22	Himachal Pradesh/Haryana border (Kalka)-Shimla	110
			Total :
			110
Jharkhand			
1.	33	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	75
2.	33	Barhi-Hazaribagh	40
3.	33	Ranchi-Jamshedpur	150
			Total :
			265

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
1.	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71
2.	17	Mangalore-KNT/Kerala border	18
3.	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105
4.	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154
5.	4A	Balgaum-Goa/KNT Border	84
6.	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25
7.	13	Bijapur-Hospet	194
8.	4	Mulbagal-Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh Border	11
Total :			662
Kerala			
1.	17	KNT/Kerala border-Khozikode-Eddapally	451
2.	47	Thiruvananthapuram-Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border	29
3.	47	Cherthala-Thiruvananthapuram	180
Total :			660
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	3	Guna Bypass	14
2.	3	Indore-Khalghat	83
3.	3	Khalghat-Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra Border	88
4.	59	Indore-Jhabua-Gujarat/Madhya Pradesh border	169
5.	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13
6.	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100
7.	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40
8.	12	Bhopal-Rajmarg crossing-Jabalpur	297
Total :			804

1	2	3	4
Manipur			
1.	39	Nagaland/Manipur border-Imphal	112
			Total :
			112
Meghalaya			
1.	44	Shillong (excluding Shillong Bypass)-Assam/Meghalaya Border	136
			Total :
			136
Mizoram			
1.	54	Assam/Mizoram Border-Aizawl	140
			Total :
			140
Nagaland			
1.	36 and 39	Assam/Nagaland Border-Dimapur	
2.	39	Kohima-Nagaland/Manipur border	28
			Total :
			28
Maharashtra			
1.	17	Panvel-Indapur	84
2.	3	Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	100
3.	3	Dhule-Pimpalgaon	118
4.	3	Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde	60
5.	3	Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra Border-Dhule	97
6.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20
7.	50	Pune-Khed	30
8.	6	Nagpur-Wainganga Bridge Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	60
9.		Wainganga Bridge Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	72
10.	6	Nagpur-Talegaon	90
11.	6	Talegaon-Amravati	58

1	2	3	4
12.	9	Pune-Sholapur	170
13.	13	Solapur-Maharashtra/Karnataka Border	30
Total :			989
Orissa			
1.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi-Talchar	137
2.	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59
3.	215	Panikoli-Keonjhar-Roxy	249
4.	200	Roxy-Rajamunda	20
5.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/Orissa Border	88
Total :			553
Pondicherry			
1.	66	Pondicherry to Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry border	4
Total :			4
Punjab			
1.	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar-Wagha border	84
2.	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101
3.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73
4.	22	Ambala-Zirakpur (Punjab Portion)	30
5.	22	Zirakpur-Kalka (Punjab Portion)	1
6.	95	Ludhiana-Talwandi	84
Total :			373
Rajasthan			
1.	11	Uttar Pradesh/Rajasthan Border-Bharatpur	21
2.	11	Bharatpur-Mahua	57
3.	11	Mahua-Jaipur	108
4.	11	Jaipur-Reenagus-Sikar	95

1	2	3	4
5.	12	Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar	328
6.	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246
7.	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82
Total :			937
Tamil Nadu			
1.	205	Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border-Tiruthani-Chennai	94
2.	220	Theni-Kumili	57
3.	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80
4.	45B	Maduri-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144
5.	45 Ext.	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni	73
6.	47	Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border-Kanyakumari	56
7.	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186
8.	66	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry border-Tindivanam	36
9.	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam	170
10.	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjur-Trichy	130
11.	67	Trichy-Karur (incl. Trichy bypass)	50
12.	67 Ext.	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45
13.	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134
14.	210	Trichy-Pudukkottai-Ramanathapuram	200
Total :			1455
Uttar Pradesh			
1.	11	Agra-Uttar Pradesh/Rajasthan Border	42
2.	24	Sitapur-Lucknow	76
3.	24	Muradabad-Sitapur	248
4.	58	Delhi/Uttar Pradesh border to Meerut	47
5.	58	Meerut to Muzaffamagar	79

1	2	3	4
6.	58	Meerut to Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal border	21
7.	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106
Total :			617
Uttaranchal			
1.	58 and 72	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal border-Dehradun	125
2.	87	Rampur-Kathgodam	88
Total :			213
West Bengal			
1.	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60
2.	34	Kolkatta-Dhalkola	438
Total :			498
Grand Total :			12230

Social Forestry Management Schemes

5218. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding constitution of a Committee for simplification of the process for according approval to the management schemes for more than 10 hectare forest area under the social-forestry programme has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal and the time by which the said committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, a proposal for constituting a committee for simplification of the process of according approval to Management Schemes having more than 10 ha. forest area under Lok Vaniki Schemes; was received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The proposal was examined by the MoEF, Government of India and it was observed that the proposal to constitute a committee for approval of such management plan was not in conformity with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in this regard and the State Government was informed accordingly.

[English]

Afforestation on Coastal Region of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

5219. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have submitted any project to the Union Government for coastal afforestation by conservation and management of Mangroves and other associated plants along the coastal regions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No fresh proposal has been submitted by the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for coastal afforestation for conservation and management of mangroves and other associated plants along the Coastal regions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had provided financial assistance of Rs. 12.00 lakhs to Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 2003-04 for conservation and management of coastal areas of Andaman.

Again during 2004-05, Ministry of Environment and Forests had provided financial assistance of Rs. 7.00 lakhs to Union Territory of Nicobar for conservation and management of coastal areas which was not spent during the said period, this amount was revalidated during 2005-06.

It has also been informed by the Department of Environment and Forests, Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Administration that the conservation and protection of mangroves and other associated plants for coastal afforestation is being implemented in Andaman and Nicobar Islands through departmental schemes under Union Territory Plan and Tsunami Rehabilitation Plan (TRP).

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Eichhornia in Ancient Water Bodies and Rivers

5220. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water and water creatures are suffering heavy damages due to invasion of aquatic plants like Eichhornia into the country's ancient water bodies and rivers;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to save the country's water bodies and rivers from the invasion of Eichhornia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Eichhornia is an obnoxious weed proliferating and colonizing water bodies in the country, creating problems to agriculture and obstruction in navigation. Government has not conducted any comprehensive survey in this regard for the water bodies and rivers across the country.

(c) De-weeding is one of the main components under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetlands Conservation Programme being implemented by the Ministry for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. There is no specific scientific method developed for controlling the aquatic weeds. Different methods used for weed removal include manual, mechanical and biological methods. Further proliferation of the weeds is controlled by preventing discharge of waste water containing nutrients

[English]

Cases of Blood Cancer in Children

5221. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Indian Cancer Society, more than 40,000 cases of blood cancer in children are reported on a yearly basis in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its harmful consequences on children; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Based on the data collected by Population Based Cancer Registry functioning under

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) during the year 2007 an estimated 13,600 children below the age of 14 years developed blood cancer.

(b) Acute Lymphatic Leukemia (ALL) is a common blood cancer and is very aggressive. However, any blood cancer will prove fatal if not treated in time. The disease increases the risk of infection in children.

(c) The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is being implemented with the objectives of primary prevention through health education, secondary prevention through early detection and diagnosis of cancer and strengthening of cancer treatment facilities. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities including cancer testing facilities in respective regions/States are provided by 27 Regional Cancer Centres in different parts of the country. The public awareness about cancer is also being carried out through Electronic and Print Media including telecast of the Programme "Kalyani" on Doordarshan.

Setting up of Medical Parks

5222. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of medical parks proposed to be set up in the country; and

(b) the amount earmarked during the Eleventh Plan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The objectives is to set up a state of art vaccine manufacturing facility and a "Medical Park" at Chengalpattu near Chennai. The "Medical Park" may include manufacturing industries for medical diagnostics, equipments, disposables and devices alongwith facilities for Research and Development.

(b) The project is under formulation stage. Funding modalities will be decided after the completion of Detail Project Report.

Release of Pakistani Prisoners

5223. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to release more than 100 Pakistanis lodged in Indian prisons;

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

(c) the number of Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistani prisons as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There are 119 Pakistani nationals inclusive of 14 fishermen in jails in India at present who can be repatriated after their national status has been confirmed.

(c) According to available information there are 205 Indian prisoners and 436 fishermen in jails in Pakistan.

(d) Issues related to release of Indians in jails in Pakistan are taken up with Government of Pakistan consistently in different bilateral meetings including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14-2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31st, March 2008 and those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March 31. Government expect the Government of Pakistan to

implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.

Corpus Fund for Promotion of Sports

5224. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to create a Corpus Fund for the development and promotion of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the surplus and unutilised amount available with various sports federations will also be utilized for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) Government is already maintaining a Corpus Fund since 1998 in the name of National Sports Development Funds (NSDF).

(b) The Fund was started with a seed contribution of Rs. 2.00 crores by the Government in the year 1998-99. Further, the Fund accepts contribution from various sources such as private/corporate sectors and Non Resident Indians. Government contributes an amount matching to the contributions so received. As on date, the corpus of the Fund is around Rs. 20 crores.

(c) and (d) The fund is independent of surplus and unutilized amount available with various sports federations.

Expansion of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

5225. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for

expansion of Physical Research Laboratory at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Proposal for Improving the Condition of Damaged Forests in Madhya Pradesh

5226. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the State of Madhya Pradesh to improve the conditions of the damaged forests in the State is pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor for delay in according the approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme Scheme through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. Fifty-four FDA project proposals received from Madhya Pradesh, upto

31-3-2008, were approved by the Ministry under the scheme at a total project cost of Rs. 142.82 crore.

[English]

Financial Assistance to NGOs

5227. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in health related programmes in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka;

(b) the details of funds provided by the Union Government to each of such organisations during the last two years;

(c) whether any case of misutilization of funds by these NGOs has been noticed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, NGO-wise and the action taken by the Government against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India through various National Disease Control Programmes and Schemes supplement the efforts of

State Governments with the active participation of the Non-Government Organisations to keep a check on various diseases. A statement indicating details of funds released to the NGOs in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is annexed as statement. No case of misutilization of funds by the NGOs has been reported by these Programme Divisions.

Information in respect of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) is being collected.

Statement

1. Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)

The number of NGOs involved in Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in the State of Tamil Nadu is 232 and 551 NGOs in the State of Karnataka. Under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), involvement of NGOs has been decentralized to the district level and no cash grant is given directly to NGOs from the Centre. Funds to NGOs are given by the concerned District TB Society. Many NGOs also participate without any financial assistance.

Under Global Funds for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) assisted RNTCP Project, for establishment of Urban DOTS Centres, funds are released directly from the Centre to the NGOs, and detail is as under:

Amount released out of GFATM Funds	2006-07 (Rs. in lakhs)	2007-08 (Rs. in lakhs)
Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) Chennai.	30.02	Nil

2. National Programme for Control of Blindness

No funds are provided to NGOs directly from Centre under National Programme for Control of Blindness as the scheme for release of funds to NGOs has been decentralized from 2005-06 onwards. As per reports received from State Blindness Control Societies, funds provided to NGOs during last two years are as under:—

Tamil Nadu

1. Adhi Parasakthi charitable Medical Education and Cultural Trust, Tamil Nadu—Rs. 25.00 lakh
2. TELC Joseph Eye Hospital, Tiruchirapally, Tamil Nadu—Rs. 5.00 lakh.
3. CSI Eye Hospital Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu—Rs. 5.00 lakh

Karnataka

1. Jayapriya Medical Eye Foundation, Hubli, Karnataka—Rs. 25.00 lakh.
2. Rotary Eye Bank, Shimoga, Karnataka—Rs. 10.00 lakh.
3. Vasavai Eye Donation Centre, Hassan—Rs. 1.00 lakh.
4. Kollegal Eye Donation Centre, Chamarjanagar—Rs. 1.00 lakh.

3. National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

Government of India does not provide any funds directly to NGOs under NLEP since year 2006-07. However the State Government provides support to NGOs out of Grant in Aid received from Gol.

In Karnataka the NGO Shanta, Jeeva, Jyoti, Bangalore was released a grant of Rs. 4.04 lakhs in 2006-07 and Rs. 3.77 lakhs in 2007-08. No grant was released to any NGOs in Tamil Nadu during this period.

4. Department of Ayurveda Yoga-Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)

Statement Showing release of grants to NGOs/Organizations in Karnataka during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08

Sl. No.	Organization	GIA released 2006-07	GIA released 2007-08
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhoruka Charities, 48, Levalle Road, Bangalore-1	1,74,029.00	—
2.	Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies of Karnataka, (SOSVA-K), No. 338-A, 2nd Floor, Sahakari Building, III block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010	3,48,058.00	—
3.	Sagaranadu Education and Development Society (SEDS), Laxmi Nagar, Shahapur, Distt. Gulbarga-585223	1,74,029.00	—
4.	Theresa Rural Development Society R.S DUDDA-573118 Hassan Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka	1,33,760.00	—
5.	SAIRAM Mahila Samaj, 5th Cross, Pension Mohall Hassan, Karnataka	1,33,760.00	—
6.	Sri Parthishwri Mahila Samaja 4th Cross, Pension Mohall, Hassan, Karnataka	2,67,520.00	—
7.	Mercy Education and Rural Integrated Trust Lingapura, Bagevalu Post Arsikere Taluk Hassan Karnataka	2,67,520.00	—
8.	Prithvi Mahila Vividoddesha Grameena Abhivridhi Samasthe 11th cross Gayathri Extinction Nagasamudra Road Channarayapatna (Tq), Distt. Hassan,-573116	1,45,024.00	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Bhagya Sree Vidya Samsthe, Malurpatna, Kudlur Post, Channapatna Taluk, Bangalore Rural Distt.	1,45,024.00	—
10.	Rural Development Society Mudalgi Post-591312, Gokak Tq. Belgaum Distt., Karnataka	2,67,520.00	—
11.	Shri Vijay Mahantesh Ayurvedic Medical College, Ilkal	2,00,000.00	—
12.	Shri Vijay Mahantesh Ayurvedic Medical College, Ilkal	2,80,000.00	—
13.	AVS's Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and Hospital, Vidyanagar, Bagalkot Road	12,00,000.00	—
14.	AVS's Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and Hospital, Vidyanagar, Bagalkot Road	25,34,000.00	—
15.	K.V.G. Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Sullia	12,00,000.00	—
16.	Luqman Unani Medical College and Hospital, Nauab, Bijapur	12,00,000.00	—
17.	Ramakrishna Ayurvedic Medical College, Bangalore	12,00,000.00	—
18.	S.S. Education Foundation's Sri Sathya Sai College of Homoeo Medical Science, Dharwad	12,00,000.00	—
19.	Sri Bahubali Viryapeet's JV Mandal's Grameen Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Terdal	12,00,000.00	—
20.	Sri Jagadgur Gavi Siddeshwara Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Koppal	12,00,000.00	—
21.	SVP Rural Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Badami	12,00,000.00	—
22.	Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara College of Ayurved, Hassan	1,00,000.00	—
23.	Shri J.G. Cooperative Hospital and Research Institute Ltd. General Hospital, TB Sanatorium, Ayurvedic Hospital, Natumpathy Centre, Dr. Gaangadhar Nagar, Ghataprabha-591321	44,00,000.00	—
24.	Natural Remedies Pvt. Ltd. R and D Centre, No. 5B Veerasanda Intestinal Area, 19th KM Stone, Hosur Road, Bangalore-560100	13,00,000.00	—
25.	Sri Maitri Hospital, Shakti Nagar, Dharwad District run by Sri Maitri Association, Devanagere District.	—	22,00,000.00

1	2	3	4
26.	Swami Vivekananda Research Foundation, Bangalore	3,20,500.00	8,30,000.00
27.	PES College of Pharmacy, Bangalore	—	1,00,000.00
28.	Kapotgiri Nandiveerimath Seva (KNS) Foundation, Nandiveerimath, Sidrameshwarnagar, Gadag-582103, Karnataka	—	5,00,000.00
29.	Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), 74/2, Jarak Bande Kaval, Attur Post Via Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064	—	10,00,000.00
30.	Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), 74/2, Jarak Bande Kaval, Attur Post Via Yelahanka,	—	8,00,000.00

*Statement showing release of grants to NGOs/Organizations in
Tamil Nadu during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08*

Sl. No.	Organization	GIA released 2006-07	GIA released 2007-08
1	2	3	4
1.	Mary Anne Charity Trust (MACT), 39/8, Starling Apartments, Akbarabad 2nd street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-94	1,60,512.00	—
2.	Socio-Educational Trust, 254/4, Annai Theresa Nagar, Thimmavarm, Chengalpattu-603101	1,60,512.00	—
3.	Rural Education and Development Society (REDS), Kootturavupatty, Idayamelur (Post) Sivagangai Distt-630562	3,48,058.00	—
4.	Deepam Educational Society (DESH), No. 3/655-B, Kuppam Road, Kaveri Nagar, Kottivakkam, Chennai-600041	3,48,058.00	—
5.	Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Kanyakumari	12,00,000.00	—
6.	JSS College of Pharmacy, Ootacamund, The Nilgiris	1,00,000.00	—
7.	Agriculture and Rural Development Trust, No. 48, Mela Street, Kallankadu, Puthur (PO), Tiruchirappalli	4,00,000.00	—
8.	International Association for Human Values (IAHV), EEEEC, No. 624, 6th, 'A' Main, 17th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd stage, Bangalore-560038, Karnataka	5,00,000.000	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Vivekananda Kendra, Nardeep, Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu	5,00,000.00	—
10.	Shri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, (Deemed University) No.1, Ramchandra Nagar, Porur, Chennai,	—	11,48,000.00
11.	ABS Botanical Conservation, Research and Training Center, Kaaripatti, Salem, Tamil Nadu	—	5,00,000.00
12.	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Voluntary Action, (SEVA), 45, TPM Nagar, Virattipathu, Mudurai	—	5,00,000.00
13.	A. Veeriyar Vandayar memorial Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur	—	1,00,000.00
14.	The Voluntary Health Education and Rural Development Society (VHERDS), Chennai	—	1,00,000.00

**New Scheme for Development of
Backward/Rural Areas**

5228. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any schemes for the development of industrially backward/rural areas in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy development of the backward areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Concerted efforts are being made both by the Central and State Governments for industrial development of backward areas under various schemes providing, *inter-alia*, for adequate flow of credit from financial institutions and banks, fiscal concessions, improved industrial infrastructures and a conducive investment climate for setting up of industries.

The Central government is providing package of economic incentives to the North-Eastern States and Special Category States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand as these States are geographically isolated, hilly and remote with poor infrastructure and, accessibility to markets.

In addition, government has been implementing two credit linked capital subsidy programmes, namely Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). These schemes have now been merged into one scheme, namely, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

A new programme viz. the Backward Regions Grant Fund was initiated in 2006-07 with the main objective to redress regional imbalances in development in the country. The programme has two components, namely, Districts Components covering 250 districts, and Special Plans for Bihar and the KBK Districts of Orissa. The Districts Component of the BRGF will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into the identified districts to bridge critical gaps with the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Special Plan for Bihar has

been formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development. The Special Plan for the KBK districts aims at addressing the development gaps in the KBK region.

The Growth Centre Scheme of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), was launched in 1991 for promoting the development of manufacturing industries in industrially backward areas. Although as many as 52 growth centres were established there was weak response from entrepreneurs to set up units within the centres, as a result of which large areas within the centres were lying vacant. The scheme was discontinued after the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Experience of establishing area development programmes suggests that they can succeed only if they are demand driven and the initiative comes from entrepreneurs who are willing to commit some initial capital investment and eventually run the project on a self-sustaining basis.

Exploitation of Indian Women Abroad

5229. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

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

(a) whether a number of cases have come to the notice of the Government where poor Indian women have been forced into prostitution by organized gangs abroad as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated April 03, 2008.

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) In the Hindustan Times dated April 3, 2008, the following three cases have been reported:

- (i) A lady from Ludhiana, who was held captive in Singapore and Ukraine.
- (ii) A lady from Moga (Punjab) who returned to India after spending six years in Singapore as an illegal immigrant and was physically tortured and forced to work as a maid.
- (iii) A woman from Kerala who was rescued in Muscat last month.

In the first case, the High Commission of India, Singapore has reported that no facts of the case are available with them as no complaint was registered with the Mission. However, as reported by the Indian Mission in Kyiv (Ukraine), two ladies, including the one mentioned in the newspaper report, entered the territory of Ukraine as illegal migrant through land border from Russia with the help of some Indian/foreign agents, who promised them jobs in western Europe. Their case was brought to the notice of our Mission by the local Ministry of Internal Affairs. Our Consular Officer explained to them the futility of such endeavour and persuaded them to go back to India. Both of them were to be sent back to India on 16-1-2008. On 28, January, 2008, the Mission came to know that while one of them had gone back to India, the other lady escaped from the custody of local authorities for reasons best known to her. On March 6, 2008 the Mission learnt that she had been brought to the office of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), which is intensively working with stranded foreign nationals for facilitating the voluntary return of such nationals to their respective countries of origin. The Consular Officer of the Indian Mission again had a personal meeting with her and arranged for her urgent medical attention and simultaneously it was decided to issue her a duplicate travel document facilitating her speedy return to her parents in India. During her interview with the Consular Officer, she did verbally complain of some wrong doing by some persons of Indian origin during her stay in

Ukraine without being able to name the culprits involved. She also failed to explain convincingly about her disappearance from custody. Finally, the Mission ensured, with the help of IOM and local authorities that she departed from Kyiv for Delhi.

In the second case, as reported by our Mission in Singapore, the lady worked as a domestic maid in Singapore during 2002-03. After working for one year she had a problem with her employer and since then she was staying in Singapore for 5-6 years. She approached the Mission on 26th February, 2008 seeking early repatriation to India for her marriage. She did not make any complaint of physical or mental harassment against any person. The Mission requested the Singapore Ministry of Manpower to arrange for her early repatriation.

In the third case, as per report received from our Mission in Muscat, a lady from Kerala landed up in Muscat on a family joining visa obtained on the basis of a fake marriage certificate (spouses of workers working in Oman are given family joining visa), through an unauthorized visa agent. On arrival in Muscat, she was received by two Indians (Gopi and Vinayan) and was taken to an apartment where she was tortured in confinement. Upon a complaint received from her husband, our Mission, in coordination and liaison with local police authorities, got a raid conducted on the premises during which one Indonesian woman alongwith three Indian men (Shanmugkhan, Radhakrishnan and Venu Gopal) were arrested. Some culprits (including Gopi and Vinayan) are reportedly still at large. A criminal case is being filed by the local prosecution authorities against those arrested in the relevant local criminal court of competent jurisdiction. Investigation by the local authorities is still on in order to catch the kingpins.

(c) Details are annexed as statement.

Statement

To check illegal migration and trafficking of workers the following steps are taken:

- (i) On receipt of complaints against registered recruiting agents action is taken by the Ministry

of Overseas Indian Affairs under the provision of Emigration Act, 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate/license in serious cases.

- (ii) In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Government/Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.
- (iii) In respect of complaint against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India.

For protection of the interest and welfare of Indian workers abroad including women emigrants, the following measures have been taken:

- Women below the age of thirty (30) years having ECR passport cannot take up employment in ECR country.
- The employment contract duly attested by the Indian Mission, should be between the worker and the employer directly and not with the recruiting agent.
- In case of recruitment of individual Indian emigrant worker including women directly by the Foreign Employer a bank guarantee of US \$ 2500 is to be deposited by the FE in the concerned Indian Mission. In absence of fulfilling the above criteria, the emigration clearance will be granted only on the basis of the availability of the specimen employment contract/labour contract duly attested by the Indian Mission concerned.
- In order to ensure the protection and welfare of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with UAE in December 2006, and with Kuwait in April 2007. An additional protocol

with Qatar was signed in November 2007 to update the 1985 Agreement with that country. MoU with Malaysia has also been signed. Such MoUs with Bahrain, Oman and Yemen are underway. These MoUs and Agreements provide for a broad framework for cooperation in Labour and Employment and also provide for Joint Working Groups of senior officers from both sides as an effective grievance redressal mechanism for better protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers.

- Further, to ensure protection and welfare of Indian workers comprehensive amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983, shall be undertaken.
- Wide publicity campaigns both, in electronic and print media, have been taken up by this Ministry for educating the workers on the emigration procedures.

Major Components of NRHM/NUHM

5230. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the details of major components of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM);

(b) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the various components of NRHM/NUHM and programmes implemented thereunder to make it more effective in the delivery of healthcare facilities particularly to the poor people of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated by the current financial year 2008-09 for various programmes under the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April, 2005 to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary healthcare facilities, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population. NRHM is an overarching umbrella covering existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Vector borne diseases, programme for control of Blindness, Iodine deficiency, T.B., Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance. The Mission takes a sector-wide approach to health and synergizes the initiatives relating to collateral determinants of health including hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water.

The Government of India also envisages the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) to address health needs of urban poor with special focus on people living in urban slums.

NRHM has rejuvenated the demand for health services in Public Sector. The states have reported improved utilization of OPD and in Patient services and availability of critical inputs including medicines, diagnostic services and referral arrangements. The Government has operationalised NRHM through a detailed Framework for Implementation which was finalized after consultations with all stake holders and experts. Continuous and proactive handholding of states is inherent to the spirit of NRHM and all states are showing enthusiastic response to implementation of the Mission.

An amount of Rs. 12050 Crore has been allocated for NRHM for FY 2008-09. This includes Rs. 2535 crore for RCH-II, Rs. 2285 crore under Mission Flexipool and Rs. 1087 crore for the five Disease Control Programmes and Integrated Disease Surveillance Project.

[Translation]

Funds for Construction and Maintenance of NHs

5231. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated for construction and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years and the current year and the amount actually spent therefrom; and

(b) the length of the Highways constructed in each State with the help of these said funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: (a) The allocation of funds for construction and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years and the current year showing the amount actually spent therefrom is given here under.

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Development		Maintenance	
	Allocation*	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
2005-06	13704.35	10850.02	868.10	838.32
2006-07	15357.24	13323.38	814.34	784.29
2007-08	11994.06	11810.28	1001.68	**814.15
2008-09	15861.26	—	818.38	—

* Allocation includes Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR)

** Provisional pending adjustments

The State-wise length of the National Highways constructed/developed during the last three years, i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 upto February 2008 is given in statement.

Statement

Length of highways constructed/developed during the last three years (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08— upto February, 2008)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Length in KMs.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	458.50
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18.00
3.	Assam	248.65

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	385.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	380.61
6.	Goa	59.05
7.	Gujarat	544.20
8.	Haryana	388.95
9.	Himachal Pradesh	340.48
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	428.00
12.	Karnataka	552.00
13.	Kerala	208.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	835.66
15.	Maharashtra	708.90

1	2	3
16.	Manipur	134.39
17.	Meghalaya	87.00
18.	Mizoram	26.00
19.	Nagaland	58.00
20.	Orissa	591.41
21.	Puducherry	15.00
22.	Punjab	507.64
23.	Rajasthan	919.15
24.	Tamil Nadu	560.53
25.	Uttar Pradesh	863.00
26.	Uttarakhand	235.60
27.	West Bengal	231.13
Border Road Organization (BRO)		1370.98
National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)		4064.73

Cases of Blindness

5232. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of totally blind and partially blind persons in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of cataract cases identified and operated upon during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the survey- 2001-02 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), there were around 12 million blind persons in the country. A statement showing State-wise

blind population in the country is enclosed at Statement I. Data regarding partially blind persons has not been maintained.

(b) A statement showing State-wise details of cataract cases identified and operated during the last three years (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08) is enclosed at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Estimated Blind Persons in India-2001-02

Sl. No.	State/UT	Estimated Blind Persons
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3919
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1075331
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	24877
4.	Assam	812471
5.	Bihar	646455
6.	Chandigarh	9099
7.	Chhattisgarh	334815
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2359
9.	Daman and Diu	1691
10.	Delhi	155748
11.	Goa	20429
12.	Gujarat	541388
13.	Haryana	398468
14.	Himachal Pradesh	42541
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	162126
16.	Jharkhand	379423
17.	Karnataka	938664

1	2	3	1	2	3
18.	Kerala	178296	28.	Punjab	245322
19.	Lakshadweep	667	29.	Rajasthan	875333
20.	Madhya Pradesh	700467	30.	Sikkim	3513
21.	Maharashtra	919146	31.	Tamil Nadu	484465
22.	Manipur	32963	32.	Tripura	24572
23.	Meghalaya	17065	33.	Uttar Pradesh	1580897
24.	Mizoram	6950	34.	Uttarakhand	47486
25.	Nagaland	20881	35.	West Bengal	954632
26.	Orissa	513897			
27.	Pondicherry	7596		Total	12143952

Statement-II**National Programme for Control of Blindness****State-wise Cataract cases operated during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08**

Sl. No.	State	Year		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
Major States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	513508	510705	493580
2.	Bihar	131860	135289	72540
3.	Chhattisgarh	84407	85701	71845
4.	Goa	5079	2383	5360
5.	Gujarat	559647	610958	644389
6.	Haryana	107799	94574	80940
7.	Himachal Pradesh	20367	21541	17587
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	8912	15366	10851

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jharkhand	46815	61603	70659
10.	Karnataka	286427	298879	254549
11.	Kerala	82514	97955	40534
12.	Madhya Pradesh	274619	284428	263895
13.	Maharashtra	657727	683714	614957
14.	Orissa	101565	111049	94982
15.	Punjab	176697	178198	110688
16.	Rajasthan	271215	265950	267208
17.	Tamil Nadu	494188	501832	352229
18.	Uttar Pradesh	624298	637079	475643
19.	Uttanchal	42551	42564	41474
20.	West Bengal	268987	223728	110574
	Total	4759182	4863496	4114082
NORTH EASTERN STATES				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	993	1043	1098
2.	Assam	28268	48346	37969
3.	Manipur	1014	1156	242
4.	Meghalaya	1372	1023	907
5.	Mizoram	1211	2715	940
6.	Nagaland	741	583	750
7.	Sikkim	351	571	530
8.	Tripura	4359	6708	6732
	Total	38309	62145	49073
UTs				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	653	1056	568
2.	Chandigarh	3173	6897	5690

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	336	132	729
4.	Daman and Diu	364	386	316
5.	Delhi	84153	84914	59193
6.	Lakshadweep	0	89	0
7.	Pondicherry	10275	11800	12655
	Total	98954	105274	79151
	E.S.I.A.F., C.R.	9174	209492	0
Grand Total		4905619	5240407	4242286

Note: (*) = Provisional data. Reports for February, 2008 and March, 2008 awaited from some States

[English]

**Projected Growth-Rate during
Eleventh Plan Period**

5233. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the projected economic growth-rate likely to be achieved during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken so far for the same in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the Plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period.

(b) In the Central Budget 2008-09, the Plan expenditure in 2008-09 (BE) has been increased by 17.3% compared to that of 2007-08 (RE). In the Central Budget 2008-09, substantial increase has been made in the allocation for Bharat Nirman, which addresses gaps in rural infrastructure and covers irrigation, road

connectivity, housing, water supply, electrification and telephony. Significant step up in the allocations for rural development as well as on education, health, and training and skill upgradation has also been made in the 2008-09 Central Budget. An investment rate to the tune of 36.7% during the Eleventh Plan period has been proposed with public investment at 8 per cent of GDP. The Eleventh Five Year Plan proposes a number of steps in different sectors to achieve targeted growth rate. Various strategic measures have been incorporated in the Eleventh Plan for accelerating the agricultural output. These include doubling the rate of growth of irrigated area, improving water management, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, watershed development, focus on soil quality, diversification into high value outputs with adequate measures to ensure food security, promote animal husbandry and fishery, easy access to credit and improving market linkages by ensuring rural connectivity. The new programmes in agriculture include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, to incentivise State governments to prepare district level agricultural plans and National Food Security Mission to increase cereal and pulses production. For industry sector the Eleventh Plan emphasises on improving the infrastructure, skill development, greater credit flows to small scale units,

etc. The investment in physical infrastructure is envisaged to increase from around 5 per cent of GDP in the base year of the Plan (2006-07) to 9 per cent of GDP by the end of the Plan period.

Janani Suraksha Yojana

5234. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently revised the package for expectant mothers and accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers under the Janani Suraksha Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Hindi In Foreign Countries

5235. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegations visited abroad during

the last three years for promotion of Rajbhasa Hindi in foreign countries along with success achieved as a result thereof; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on such visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) With a view to promote Hindi abroad the Ministry organises Regional Hindi Conferences in different countries. These conferences are attended by Hindi scholars, teachers, students from the countries within the region concerned and Hindi experts are sent from India as part of official delegation. These conferences have been greatly welcomed by foreign scholars and students of Hindi as these have helped in addressing the problems faced by them in teaching Hindi and in exchange of information on developments taking place in the field of Hindi language and literature. These conferences have also helped in familiarising foreign Hindi scholars with latest technology in the field of Hindi. As such, this initiative of the Ministry has proved to be very useful.

Details of the delegations from India that participated in the Hindi conferences and other events aimed at promotion of Hindi abroad in the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Hindi Conferences/events (with country and dates)	No. of official delegates
1	2	3
2005-06		
1.	Regional Hindi Conference Sydney (Australia) 4-5 February 2006	2
2.	Regional Hindi Conference Abu Dhabi (UAE) 22-24 February 2006	1
2006-07		
3.	Regional Hindi Conference Tokyo (Japan) 28-30 Jly, 2006	6

1	2	3
4.	Regional Hindi Conference Moscow (Russia) 27-29 March, 2007	5
2007-08		
5.	Media launch for 8th World Hindi Conference, New York 21-23 April, 2007	2
6.	8th World Hindi Conference, New York 13-15 July, 2007	97
7.	Regional Hindi Conference Budapest (Hungary) 24-26 October, 2007	8
8.	Regional Hindi Conference Seoul (Republic of Korea) 9-11 November, 2007	3
9.	Seminar and talks on Hindi organised by World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius 23-30 March, 2008	1

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Setting up of Indian Space
Science Data Centre**

5236. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Science Data Centre to process raw data into user-friendly format has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Indian Space Research Organisation is in the process of setting up of Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) to process, archive and disseminate the data from various Scientific Satellite

missions. This Data Centre will be utilized by various scientists for investigations.

(c) The Centre is being set up near Bangalore and it is planned to make it operational by the last quarter of 2008.

[Translation]

**Expenditure Incurred on
Development of States**

5237. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the expenditure on the development of the States in the year 2007-08 as against 2006-07;

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

(c) the extent to which the target in the social sectors has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The details of actual plan expenditure for 2006-07 and anticipated plan expenditure for 2007-08 State-wise is at Statement-I.

(c) A statement showing the actual/anticipated plan expenditure on Social Services as compared to the approved plan outlay in 2006-07 and 2007-08, State-wise, is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Annual Plan 2006-07 Actual Expenditure	Annual Plan 2007-08 Anticipated Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18,206.99	29,982.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	892.14	1,277.52
3.	Assam	2758.48	3,800.00
4.	Bihar	8,549.70	10,200.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	5,106.95	6,805.63
6.	Goa	1069.96	1,853.50
7.	Gujarat	14384.46	16,000.00
8.	Haryana	3928.71	5,502.35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2017.23	2,100.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,406.19	5,000.00
11.	Jharkhand	3883.02	6,431.61
12.	Karnataka	17227.95*	17,782.58 \$
13.	Kerala	4558.64	6,950.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9531.82	12,426.45
15.	Maharashtra	15681.38	16,148.03
16.	Manipur	1045.56	1,420.40
17.	Meghalaya	759.81	1,128.51
18.	Mizoram	702.44	851.15

1	2	3	4
19.	Nagaland	693.29	939.79
20.	Orissa	3,630.51	5,520.00
21.	Punjab	5751.83	5,111.00
22.	Rajasthan	8969.31	13,002.51
23.	Sikkim	450.17	658.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	12677.04	14,209.68
25.	Tripura	891.62	1,220.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20,096.90	25,001.66
27.	Uttarakhand	3,250.09	4,378.63
28.	West Bengal	6,935.49	9,150.00

* Revised Outlay

\$ Approved Outlay

Statement-II

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	States	Annual Plan 2006-07		Annual Plan 2007-08	
		Outlay for Social Services	Expenditure for Social Services	Outlay for Social Services	Anticipated Expenditure for Social Services
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5,710.25	4,548.65	10,821.20	10,542.83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	221.31	271.71	230.79	289.51
3.	Assam	963.13	409.17	797.92	703.86
4.	Bihar	2510.59	2,635.98	2,457.36	2,457.36
5.	Chhattiegarh	2,216.00	2,497.48	3,261.32	3,005.78
6.	Goa	530.18	433.22	616.12	838.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	4,530.34	4,971.97	6,676.05	6,676.05
8.	Haryana	1573.82	1,573.82	2,602.78	2,596.41
9.	Himachal Pradesh	890.14	1,061.35	912.59	912.59
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	964.14	951.23	1,152.77	1,196.62
11.	Jharkhand	1894.61	1,396.69	2,310.91	2,499.30
12.	Karnataka	5236.66	5,478.37	6,585.57	6,585.37\$
13.	Kerala	1644.91	930.27	1,984.14	1,984.14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2681.96	2,803.52	3,941.71	3,896.58
15.	Maharashtra	5850.65	5,453.64	7,832.02	4,108.35
16.	Manipur	432.66	356.72	292.88	503.40
17.	Meghalaya	276.59	221.79	284.18	285.66
18.	Mizoram	287.24	252.17	308.91	308.91
19.	Nagaland	252.15	248.73	227.51	286.90
20.	Orissa	920.32	982.62	1,541.95	1,653.73
21.	Punjab	609.80	1,065.76	1,587.48	1,587.48
22.	Rajasthan	3160.98	2,721.66	2,957.81	2,975.72
23.	Sikkim	197.60	182.93	238.26	255.80
24.	Tamil Nadu	5446.72	5,284.95	6,524.02	6,159.58
25.	Tripura	374.10	360.87	444.10	442.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7549.59	8,090.52	9,682.34	5,368.82
27.	Uttaranchal	1691.19	1,273.30	1,993.03	1,993.03
28.	West Bengal	2930.38	2,543.14	4,383.87	4,383.8

* Revised Outlay

\$ Approved Outlay

*[English]***Negligence by Doctors**

5238. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the

Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry Committee constituted to look into the allegations of death due to negligence at

the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Two enquiry committees were constituted to look into the allegation of death due to negligence at AIIMS as per following details:—

1 Patient Gokul Prasad Sharma—75 years Male, operated upon for CABG procedure in CTVS operation theatre on 17-08-07. A surgical screw was left in the chest which was subsequently removed on re-exploration operation at AIIMS on 20-08-2007. This matter has been enquired by two separate inquiry committees. However, the matter at this stage is subjudice at High Court of Delhi. Another committee has been constituted on the allegation by the relations regarding negligence in death of a patient at Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (Dr. BRAIRCH). The committee is yet to submit its report.

Meningitis Vaccine in Government Hospitals

5239. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meningitis vaccines are freely available in various Government Hospitals in the country, especially in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a state listed subject such information is not centrally maintained. Meningitis vaccines are not allotted to the

UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as routine immunization under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). However, the Government of India allots specific number of Meningitis vaccines to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration during Haj for the pilgrims.

Indo-African Summit

5240. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-African Summit has recently been held in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof outlining the objectives; and

(c) the details of the issues discussed and agreements signed during this Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The India-Africa Forum Summit was held in New Delhi on 8 and 9 April, 2008. It was preceded by meetings of Foreign Ministers and Senior Officials. The objective of the Summit was to identify a new framework for India-Africa cooperation in diverse areas that befits our mutual strengths.

(c) The Summit adopted a Delhi Declaration and an India-Africa Framework for Cooperation. Copies of both are enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

Statement-I

Delhi Declaration

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation of Africa, representing the Continent, the African Union and its Institutions along with the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, have met today in New Delhi, India, to consolidate the process of deliberations and discussions with a view to redefining and reenergizing the decades-old partnership and historical and civilizational links between the African continent and India.

2. We recognize that Africa and India have undergone enormous positive changes, in particular over the last two and half decades, and that Africa and India have historically been close allies in the struggle for independence, equality, human rights, freedom and democracy. We are neighbours across the Indian Ocean. We note that there has been significant positive transformation of the political, economic and social environment in Africa and the strengthening of democracy, particularly with the adoption of the Constitutive Act and the establishment of the African Union with its institutions, such as the Pan-African Parliament, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, the African Court on Human and People's Rights as well as its programme the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the Peace and Security Council. During this period, the Indian economy has evolved into a more mature and fast growing economic mode and Indian democracy has further strengthened. We have, therefore, decided to build upon these positive achievements with a view to helping each other to become more self-reliant, economically vibrant, at peace with ourselves and the world and to work together to strengthen our close partnership.

3. Bearing in mind that African countries and India have enjoyed close, cooperative and multi-sectoral partnership encompassing political, security related, economic, science and technology, human resource development, social, cultural and other areas of mutual interest, we have adopted today a Framework for Cooperation which will further strengthen our partnership in all these and other areas for our mutual benefit.

4. This partnership will be based on the fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, and understanding between our peoples for our mutual benefit.

It will also be guided by the following principles: respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of state and commitment to deepen the process of African integration; collective action and cooperation for the common good of our states and peoples; dialogue

among our civilizations to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, linguistic and racial diversities as well as gender equality with the view to strengthening the trust and understanding between our peoples; the positive development of intra-regional/sub-regional integration by complementing and building upon existing/sub-regional initiatives in Africa; recognition of diversity between and within regions, including different social and economic systems and levels of development; and further consolidation and development of plural democracy.

5. The international community is today addressing a series of critical issues such as environmental degradation, including climate change and desertification, multilateral trade negotiations, reform and democratization of international institutions, particularly the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the fight against terrorism, combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the fight against drugs and most importantly, promotion of pluralism and democracy, the pursuit of sustainable development underpinned by social justice, eradication of hunger, poverty as well as combating diseases. Africa and India reiterate their intention to ensure that in all these matters, the interests of developing countries are kept uppermost and the socio-economic developmental requirements of our countries are guaranteed.

6. We recognize that climate change is a global challenge but one that will be particularly severe for developing countries given their vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities to adapt to its effects. We reaffirm that development is the best form of adaptation and that the foremost priority for developing countries is to ensure accelerated social and economic development. We note that sustainable development is essential to enable effective adaptation. We stress the importance for adaptation to be adequately financed through additional resources and not from funds meant for development.

7. We note with regret the lack of demonstrable

progress by developed countries on Green House Gas (GHG) reduction commitments in the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. We emphasize the need for equitable and fair burden sharing in mitigation which must take into account historical emissions. In this regard, we take note of the proposal of the Prime Minister of India on convergence of *per-capita* emissions of developing and developed countries.

8. We urge the international community to give real and immediate effect to commitments on climate change, especially in the areas of technology transfer, financing and capacity building. There is also need for a closer look at the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime to ensure cost-effective transfer of appropriate and advanced clean technologies to developing countries.

9. We are determined to participate effectively in the negotiations under the Bali Action Plan towards comprehensively addressing climate change in accordance with the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the key principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

10. We take note of the state of play in the World Trade Organization (WTO)—Doha round of trade negotiations. We reiterate the importance of the development dimension of the Round and welcome the strengthened engagement, solidarity and cooperation among developing countries in that process. Agriculture remains the key to the conclusion of this round. We are convinced that any acceptable agreement must adequately protect the livelihood, food security and rural development concerns of developing countries. Any outcome must also bring about significant and effective reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and subsidies provided by the developed countries. There are equally important issues also to be addressed on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) services and rules. We are convinced that the process to be adopted to reach convergence in the WTO negotiations requires focus on content and not artificial timelines. The promise of a development round must be fully realized.

11. We also reaffirm our commitment to providing meaningful market access to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). We call upon the members of WTO to implement duty-free and quota-free market access for all products originating from the LDCs and to take additional measures to provide effective market access to them through simplified and transparent Rules of Origin.

12. We attach priority to providing trade related technical assistance and capacity building to LDCs to help mitigate the effect of their marginalization in the present globalised trade structure and enable them to maximize the benefits resulting from the multilateral trade liberalization process. We are committed to helping LDCs achieve the goal of securing effective market access through transparent and predictable rules of the multilateral trading system.

13. We agree on the urgent need to reform the international financial architecture, especially the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), to reflect the changing global situation. In this context, we emphasize the need for the effective voice and participation of developing countries, including in the quotas and voting rights in the IFIs. This would enhance the IFIs' accountability, legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness.

14. We are committed to multilateralism and to strengthening the democratic structure of the United Nations.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen Africa-India cooperation at the United Nations, the G77 and in other multilateral fora with a view to addressing issues of common concern. There is need for urgent and comprehensive reform of the United Nations to enable it to more effectively deal with the challenges of today's world. We share the view that the United Nations should function in a more transparent, efficient and effective manner, and that the composition of its central organs must reflect contemporary realities. In particular, the expansion of the UN Security Council, in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, is central to the process of UN reform.

16. India notes the common African position and

the aspirations of the African countries to get their rightful place in an expanded UN Security Council as new permanent members with full rights as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus. Africa takes note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council. We note the active and constructive engagement of both sides in the process of the reform of the United Nations. We agree to further strengthen cooperation between our two sides towards early realization of a genuine reform of the United Nations and its working methods, particularly revitalizing and enhancing the role of the General Assembly and reform and expansion of the Security Council.

17. We believe that the security of all nations would be enhanced by the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We renew our commitment to the consensus attained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to Disarmament whereby it was agreed that the first priority in disarmament negotiations is to be accorded to nuclear disarmament. We call for the negotiation of specific steps that would reduce and finally eliminate nuclear weapons, thereby leading to a world free from all weapons of mass destruction as envisaged in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 and the Africa Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty) of 1995, as well as other relevant African and Indian regional initiatives.

18. We unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. An act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to the entire international community. We recognize the need to further strengthen international cooperation to combat global terrorism and for compliance of member states with all international terrorism conventions and related protocols, and the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism. We also agree to make concerted efforts towards expeditious finalization of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN.

19. We affirm that cooperation between Africa and India has been, from its inception, a useful example of

South-South cooperation. It has been our endeavour at this Summit to devise ways and means of enhancing this South-South partnership, taking into account the new capabilities that have emerged in Africa and India. Bearing this in mind, we have drawn up and adopted a Framework for Cooperation that would provide the avenue for further and dynamic development of the Africa-India partnership. African Leaders deeply appreciate the initiatives that have been announced at this Summit by the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, that would provide an input for the implementation of this Framework for Cooperation. We have agreed that Africa and India will strengthen not only their bilateral linkages, but that India will also progressively strengthen its partnership with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities of Africa.

20. We have also agreed that in addition to high level political exchanges between us in the bilateral, regional and multilateral contexts, Africa and India should meet every three years. We have accordingly, agreed that the next Africa-India Summit will be held in 2011 in Africa.

21. Without prejudice to India's on-going and future programmes at the bilateral, REC and other levels, we agree to develop jointly, within a period of one year, a joint plan of action at a continental level and an appropriate follow-up mechanism to implement our Framework for Cooperation.

22. We, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation that are representing Africa at this Summit would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of India and, in particular, their Excellencies the President and Prime Minister of India for hosting this Forum Summit and for the warm reception and hospitality extended to us. This Forum Summit has further cemented the age-old relationship between Africa and India, a relationship that has been of mutual benefit and is based on mutual trust, equality and solidarity.

23. The Prime Minister of India, on behalf of the Government and people of India, takes this opportunity to thank the participating Heads of State and

Government and other Heads of Delegation from Africa for accepting the invitation to attend this Africa-India Forum Summit and for their most productive and useful suggestions to strengthen and re-invigorate the Africa-India partnership.

Issued at New Delhi on 9th April, 2008.

Statement-II

Africa-India Framework for Cooperation

The Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation of Africa, representing the Continent, the African Union and its Institutions alongwith the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, recognizing the rich history of Africa-India relationship and noting with satisfaction the existing close, deep and multi-layered relations between the two sides and realizing the need to give a new dimension to this cooperation, have decided to adopt this Framework for Cooperation between Africa and India.

The two parties agree to cooperate in the areas enumerated herein.

1. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

As a conducive and supportive international economic environment is important for Africa and India in their quest for a mutually beneficial economic development, the two parties hereby recognize the need to foster such environment by reinforcing efforts to promote between them, trade and industry, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), development of Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs) and Africa's regional integration. In this regard, the two parties have agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

I. Agriculture

Africa and India agree that agricultural development is an effective approach to ensure food security, eradicating poverty and improve peoples' livelihood, and agree to strengthen Africa and India cooperation in this sector in order to improve the food security of Africa and to increase its exports to world markets. They emphasize sustainable development of agricultural and animal resources with effective support for scientific

research for conservation of land and environment. The cooperation will focus on the following areas:

- capacity building and sharing of experience in policy analysis and planning relating to agriculture sector;
- cooperation in water resource management and irrigation practices, agro-infrastructure development, transfer of applied agricultural technology and skills transfer;
- cooperation to combat agro-based diseases;
- capacity building/training for increasing the capacity of small land holder African food producers to comply with the required quality and safety standards, including extension activity and agricultural credit policies;
- sharing experiences and information on appropriate storage and processing technologies and jointly promoting the uptake of African and Indian developed technologies for diversification and value addition in relations to food and agricultural products;
- sharing of expertise and information between commodity boards of Africa and India with a view to learning from each other's experiences in farm mechanization, post harvest technology, organic farming, policy and regulatory frameworks and setting up of cross border commodity exchange boards;
- enhancing market opportunities for African value added agricultural products;
- cooperation in livestock management, breeding technologies, meat processing, dairy industry development, fisheries and aqua-culture, including exchange and transfer of applied technology;
- establishing linkages between agriculture and industrial development in order to support and nurture agro-processing industries; and
- enhancing cooperation between agricultural training centres and relevant research institutes.

II. Trade, Industry and Investment

Africa and India recognize the need to expand the two-way trade, greater market access and investment facilitation and decide to take the following steps:

- technical assistance and capacity-building in trade negotiations, dispute settlement and implementation of different agreements under WTO, as well as in enhancing competitiveness in the world economy;
- strengthening linkages of enterprises on both sides with a view to developing global markets for products and services available on both sides;
- maximizing the benefits of trade liberalization through improved market access for products of export interest to African countries and India, including striving to provide duty-free and quota-free market access for African products;
- promoting and facilitating enhanced trade cooperation between the two sides, including through value addition/processing;
- organization of business delegations and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions;
- preparation of a Joint Strategy and Action Plan for mapping of resources and opportunities for entrepreneurship development and facilitation aimed at mutual growth;
- developing and implementing projects for information dissemination regarding entrepreneurship opportunities on both sides, business-to-business contacts, such as through business conclaves and upgrading of trade facilitation through commercial missions of both sides; and
- enhancing corporate governance and social responsibility.

III. Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs)

Africa and India recognize that for a sustainable

and successful industrial policy, development of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises is necessary as the first step towards industrialization in African countries. With that objective in focus, the following steps will be taken:

- capacity building through Entrepreneurship Development Programmes;
- capacity building on policy formulation and institutional framework development for the SMEs;
- promotion of Joint Ventures between business enterprises of Africa and India;
- training in Africa and India for upgrading of skills in the areas of conventional and hi-tech training; and
- promoting the export of SME products, including projects on turnkey basis.

IV. Finance

Recognizing the importance of the financial sector, cooperation in the following areas is decided:

- sharing of experiences and capacity-building on policy and regulatory frameworks in the financial sector including the microfinance sector;
- sharing of experiences in mobilization of domestic savings;
- capacity-building in development of automated trading systems for stock-exchange and development of cross-border stock-exchanges, such as Pan-African Stock exchanges; and
- mobilization of financial resources to fund the various projects envisaged in the areas of cooperation.

V. Regional Integration

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation and economic integration in development endeavours, Africa and India decide as follows:

- provision of financial support to mutually agreed integration programmes carried out by the African Union and the RECs, especially those of interregional and continental importance;
- promotion and support for regional and inter-regional projects, including infrastructural development; and
- provision of technical assistance to support the establishment of the financial institutions of the African Union.

2. POLITICAL COOPERATION

Bearing in mind that peace, security and development are inseparable as there can be no lasting development without peace and recognizing the need for closer cooperation in the field of governance structures and civil society, India resolves to support Africa in meeting her objectives of sustainable development, prosperity and peace through the following steps:

I. Peace and Security

- cross-fertilization of the experiences of the AU and India in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction efforts taking into account the AU's Policy Framework for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD);
- cooperation in undertaking lessons-learned exercises and sharing of experiences regarding the role of women in peacekeeping operations;
- cooperation in developing and implementing training of trainers towards enhancing the civilian component of peacekeeping operations;
- technical assistance and capacity building to tackle the challenge of money laundering and terrorist financing;
- cooperation in duplication of the Female Formed Police Unit;
- cooperation in developing and implementing a Training of Trainers Programme towards

effective policing and police support as part of peacekeeping operations;

- sharing of experiences and information to enhance capacity to fight international terrorism, including through the African Centre on the Study and Research on Terrorism.
- cooperation in combating drug trafficking, as well as trafficking in women and children; and
- technical assistance and capacity building in disaster management and humanitarian intervention.

II. Civil Society and Good Governance

- cross-fertilization of ideas on decentralization of governance and building capacity of local governments through administrative reforms and enhancing public participation in local and central government;
- establishing a platform to initiate, deepen and maintain cooperation in civil establishments and training institutes in Africa and India on various relevant issues;
- create a joint platform for discussion of global political and economic issues with a view to reinforcing South-South positions that will enable Africa and India to have greater leverage in the international fora;
- cross-fertilization and sharing of experiences on public service reforms and human rights regimes with a view to strengthening mutual competences in these areas;
- sharing of experiences on strategies for deepening democratization at the local level, management of ethnic diversity and wealth distribution in a democratic context and the professionalisation of the public services;
- exchange of expertise and sharing of experiences on the conduct of elections in vast and complex terrains.

- sharing experiences in harnessing resources from Diaspora;
- helping to strengthen the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- interaction of legal experts/lawyers through Bar Associations; and
- cooperation in legal research methodology and in emerging international legal issues, such as the mechanisms, processes and regulatory frameworks that support outsourcing.

3. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

I. Science and Technology

- developing robust networks among leading institutes for Science and Technology for collaborative research and development;
- sharing experiences in technology transfer and development of appropriate technology;
- sharing experiences in capacity building for strengthening the role of science and technology;
- cooperation in setting quality standards and recognition awards in science, technology and innovation; and
- cooperation in management of intellectual property, including indigenous knowledge.

II. Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Recognizing that Information Technology is emerging as one of the major vehicles of economic growth and has become fundamental part of infrastructure and improvement of myriad sectors of socioeconomic activities, Africa and India agree to take the following steps:

- cooperate closely to ensure quick and effective implementation and roll out of the Pan-African E-Network Project being funded by India. The project will be a major step forward in removing

the digital divide, ensure connectivity of all African countries and provide much needed telemedicine and tele-education to the masses of African countries;

- cooperate in the implementation of the digital solidarity mechanism developed within the framework of NEPAD;
- cooperation in capacity building in devising model legal and policy frameworks for ICT, such as on e-Commerce, e-Governance, e-Health etc.;
- cooperation and information sharing among ICT regulatory bodies;
- development of Information and Communication Technology tools and applications aimed at improving public administration at different levels of government, taxation management, public financing and delivery of public services;
- promotion of cooperation in the range of non-material knowledge-based human resources such as technology, organization, information, education and skills development; and
- cooperation in setting up Community Information Centers using IT to accelerate socio-economic development, with a view to providing rural connectivity and bridging the digital divides.

4. COOPERATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

I. Education

Africa and India recognize that human resource development is vital to achieve the socio-economic development goals of Africa and universal mass education is a key factor in this endeavour. To achieve universal education with special emphasis on quality and gender equality, Africa and India will collaborate in the following areas:

- sharing experiences and building capacity for

- educational policy planning and administration through the effective utilization of financial and statistical information on education;
- increasing the scholarships available for Africa from the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes with focus on science, technology and information technology-related courses;
 - sharing of experiences and best practices in "Mid-day Meal Programme";
 - collaboration in the development and production of teaching and learning materials, including equipment for teaching science and technology and textbooks, especially for universities;
 - collaboration in designing and implementation of Open and Distance Education/Learning Programmes with attendant capacity building for personnel required, such as teachers and ICT technicians;
 - establishing programmes for exchange of students and staff through twinning leading African and Indian Universities;
 - cooperation in equipping scientific laboratories and training workshops for Technical and Vocational Education; and
 - cooperation in establishing programmes in capacity building and entrepreneurship for youth through ICT.
- training and capacity building for health professionals and physicians;
 - sharing experience and information on healthcare systems development and community health programmes;
 - linking the centers of excellence in the health sector, such as research and training institutes, etc.;
 - focus on cooperation in devising and implementing programmes for enhancing universal access to adequate medical services, including developing the telemedicine infrastructure and technology to enable patients to receive quality health services, such as medical diagnostic and other services to which they would not ordinarily have access due to distance and/or limitation in the availability of specialists;
 - strengthen the indigenous manufacturing capacities and to make available affordable and quality pharmaceutical products, especially essential medicines. This may also include exchange of technical experts and collaborative efforts;
 - enhance cooperation in controlling HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other communicable diseases;
 - cooperation in combating the proliferation and dumping of counterfeit medicines; and
 - local production of oral rehydration therapy.

II. Health

Africa and India acknowledge that upgrading and streamlining healthcare systems and increasing access to healthcare for the people of Africa and India is a critical issue and agree to increase cooperation in the field of health promotion and healthcare systems through the following areas of cooperation:

- sharing experiences, information and expertise on traditional systems of medicine within recognized intellectual property regime;

III. Water and Sanitation

In both Africa and India, many communities lack access to adequate and safe drinking water, as well as basic sanitation resulting in prevalence of diseases related to poor hygiene and environmental sanitation. In order to achieve the MDGs and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and Plan of Action, efforts have to be doubled particularly during 2008, the International Year of Sanitation. In this connection, cooperation could focus on sharing

experiences and promoting programmes in the following areas:

- development of sanitation infrastructure, particularly in urban and sub-urban settings;
- urban development, in particular, combating the mushrooming of slums and shanty towns;
- waste management; and
- putting in place appropriate framework for water quality control and water treatment.

iv. Culture and Sports

Recognizing the need to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between different nations and ethnic groups and achieving common prosperity and progress of mankind, as well as underlining the importance of cultural exchanges and cooperation, Africa and India resolve to enhance cultural relations between the two sides. To this end, focus will be given to the following areas:

- encourage people-to-people contacts and exchanges to deepen the traditional friendship between the two sides;
- strengthen contacts among young people through encouraging and supporting exchange of students among schools and universities;
- encourage the visit of Professors under the bilateral cultural exchange programmes at prestigious universities in Africa and India and encourage creating/maintaining chair of African/Indian studies;
- encourage bilateral cultural exchange programmes of performing art troupes and art exhibitions;
- foster closer linkages in the film industry sector and encourage holding of film festivals, as well as increase interaction and cooperation for the film industry of Africa and India; and
- cooperation in the area of sports.

v. Poverty Eradication

A significant percentage of the population in Africa and India live below the poverty line and many of the working poor lack social protection. Unemployment and underemployment, particularly for the youth, resulting in internal and external migration are contributing to unplanned rapid urbanization. These are serious issues for both Africa and India and both can cooperate to resolve these problems in the following areas:

- strengthening cooperation in the framework of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- cooperation in the implementation of poverty alleviation strategies;
- sharing experiences in employment creation and business management;
- development of social security systems; and
- sharing of best practices in development of credit unions, especially in rural settings.

5. TOURISM

As a significant industry that provides economic benefits and promotes friendship and socio-cultural understanding among nations, Africa and India hereby resolve to continue to promote the growth of tourism, as well as expand people-to-people exchanges in their two regions to further promote understanding, trust and cooperation between their peoples. To this end, focus will be given to the following areas:

- promotion of close interaction between relevant authorities in Africa and India to facilitate coherence of policies and initiatives related to tourism development;
- adoption of appropriate measures to prevent all threats to tourism, which may have direct impact on tourism;
- strengthening of partnership with the private sector especially travel agencies, hotels, airlines and other tourism related establishments, as

well as the media, with a view to advancing tourism development between the two regions; and

- promotion of general tourism and offering joint tourism packages, including eco-tourism, to utilize the geographical diversity of the two sides.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Recognizing that energy and infrastructure is fundamental to the economic growth of developing countries and acknowledging that infrastructural development and environmental sustainability are some of the priority areas of NEPAD, Africa and India agree to place energy, infrastructure and environmental sustainability as one of the key areas of cooperation and commit ourselves to the following areas:

- development of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;
- cooperation in the development of transport and telecommunications networks;
- cooperation in the field of exploration and exploitation of natural resources, as well as value addition;
- creation of enabling environment for investment and development of renewable and non-renewable energy sources;
- cooperation and capacity-building in best practices and adaptation on the impact of climate change and desertification;
- exchange of experiences on recent advances on alternative energy sources and sustainable land management;
- development of cooperation in fibre optic cables construction around and within Africa for broadband access network specifically for landlocked countries; and
- technical cooperation for Clean Development Mechanism (COM).

7. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Africa and India agree that closer linkages and cooperation in the field of media and communications will generate greater synergy in their relationship, enhance a South-South communication culture, enable more systematic use of their shared cultural and social heritage and also improve the process of economic development in Africa and India. In this regard, they have decided to focus cooperation efforts in the following areas:

- cooperate to promote common South-South strategies on flow of information in media;
- enhance linkages among news agencies; and
- enhance training in human resource development, corporate communications, and modern technology in media developments.

Without prejudice to India's on-going and future programmes at the bilateral, REC and other levels, we agree to develop jointly, within a period of one year, a joint plan of action at a continental level and an appropriate follow-up mechanism to implement our Framework for Cooperation.

Done at Delhi this ninth day of April, 2008.

Maternal and Infant Mortality

5241. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has sought the support of young doctors to deal with the situation arising out of high maternal and infant mortality;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to give incentives to the young doctors to encourage them in this regard; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The primary health care services are being provided in rural areas through a network of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 Primary Health Centres and 4045 Community Health Centres as on March, 2007. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Primary Health Centres including contractual appointment of doctors/specialists in the field of Anesthesia, Gynaecology etc. to provide the services at Community Health Centres to reduce Maternal and Infant mortality. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

A Task Group constituted under the National Rural Health Mission under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has recommended the following measures to ensure the Services of doctors in rural areas:

- Decentralization of recruitment at district level;
- Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;
- Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third;
- Increasing the admission capacity in medical colleges for Anesthesia;
- To start one year Certificate Course in Anesthesia for Medical Officers working in the system at present to be given by National Board of Examination.
- Hiring of private practitioners on case-to-case basis.

Various State/UT Governments have taken the following steps/initiatives:

- Compulsory rural/difficult area posting for admission to postgraduate courses and as a

pre-requisite for promotion, foreign assignment or training abroad;

- Compulsory rotation of doctors on completion of prescribed tenure as per classification of locations;
- Option to forgo non practicing allowance and undertake practice without compromising on assigned duties, as per the service rules; offering incentive in form of allowance etc.
- Contractual appointment of doctors/specialists under NRHM.

Poor Connectivity of Roads

5242. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the connectivity of roads in various States is very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments to improve connectivity of roads in their respective States;

(d) whether the Central assistance for improving road connectivity to various State Governments is provided; 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) to (c) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NH) network in the country. The connectivity by NHs in the States are developed and maintained within available resources as per the availability of funds, traffic volume and inter-se priority. The connectivity of State Roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. This Ministry has not made any requests to the State Governments for improving connectivity of State roads.

(d) and (e) During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 1565.32 crore was allocated to the States/Union Territories (UTs) from the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of State Roads and Rs. 173.93 crore was allocated to the State/UTs for development of Roads of Inter-State connectivity and Economic Importance. In addition to the above, an allocation of Rs. 41 crore was made for improvement of Duburi-Brahmanipal-Harichandanpur-Naranpur State Road in Orissa and for Mughal Road in Jammu and Kashmir during 2007-08.

Accredited Social Health Activists

5243. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have not been appointed so far alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) 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) The Government of India launched the ASHA Scheme in 18 high focus states. There is not state where ASHA has not been appointed.

(b) Question does not arise.

Achievements of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

5244. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major achievements of the Ministry since it came into being;

(b) the funds allocated and spent therefrom during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to broad base the activities of the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in 2004 by amalgamating erstwhile Emigration Division of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the NRI Division of the Ministry of External Affairs to act as a single point interface to promote, nurture and sustain a mutually beneficial relationship between India and the Overseas Indian Community. Some of the major achievements of the Ministry since its inception is indicated as under:

(i) OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA (OCI) SCHEME

The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched in January, 2006 in response to the demand from the overseas Indian community for dual citizenship. Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of all countries (except Pakistan and Bangladesh) who were citizens of India or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26 January, 1950 are covered under the Scheme. Registered Overseas Citizens are eligible to multiple entries, multi-purpose life-long visa, and are extended certain financial, economic, educational benefits. Overseas Citizens of India have been granted parity with Non-resident Indians in areas such as inter-country adoption of Indian children, entry fees to national parks and wildlife sanctuaries; and in domestic airfares within India. However, the OCI Scheme does not confer any political rights.

(ii) OVERSEAS INDIAN FACILITATION CENTRE (OIFC)

The Ministry has set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) as a not-for-profit Trust, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Center functions as a 'one stop shop' for investment facilitation by overseas Indians. The objectives of the Center include promoting Overseas Indian investments into India and facilitate Business to Business partnerships, establish and maintain a Diaspora

Knowledge Network (DKN), assist States in India to project investment opportunities to overseas Indians in the infrastructure and social sectors, provide a host of advisory services to PIOs and NRIs on matters such as consular questions, stay in India, investment and financial issues etc.

(iii) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PIO/NRI UNIVERSITY

A PIO/NRI University is being established by the Ministry for the benefit of children of overseas Indians. The University will have the status of "Deemed University" under Section 3 of the UGC Act. The policy framework to establish a PIO/NRI University, with the requisite flexibility in the choice of educational discipline and courses offered, at any suitable place in the country has been approved by the Government.

(iv) PRAVASI BHARTIYA KENDRA

A Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra to commemorate the evolution and achievements of the India Diaspora is being set up in the National Capital. The Kendra will include a Convention Centre, a permanent Exhibition Centre, Lecture Rooms, a well stocked library etc. The Kendra would focus on harnessing the talent pool among the Indian Diaspora towards the country's development process and would also inculcate a sense of pride in the achievements of India and its Diaspora.

(v) COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (CPOE)

The Ministry is setting up a Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment (CPOE), which will serve as a 'think tank' to conduct market research, identify employment opportunities in the international labour market, disseminate market information to stakeholders, do skill profiling to identify skill gap and plan appropriate interventions for addressing such gaps, devise strategies to respond to the market dynamics and enable intending emigrants to reap the demographic dividend of globalization.

(vi) BILATERAL LABOUR COOPERATION

To secure protection of emigrants against exploitation and abuse, India had signed Labour

Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in the 1980's. However, no further progress was made in this direction for many years. After its creation in 2004, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs made concerted efforts to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with all major labour receiving countries for bilateral cooperation to ensure protection and welfare of our emigrants. The Ministry planned to sign MoUs with 5 Gulf countries (Kuwait UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Oman) and with Malaysia.

The MOU with UAE was signed 13th December 2006 and with Kuwait in April 2007. MoU with Malaysia has been finalized. Negotiations are underway with Oman. Efforts are being made to negotiate MOUs with Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Yemen also. An additional protocol to the existing labour agreement between India and Qatar was signed in New Delhi on 20 November 2007 to address mutual concerns. The Ministry proposes to sign MOUs with important receiving countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Asia to forge bilateral partnerships to expand the overseas employment market for Indian workers particularly for the skilled category.

(vii) BILATERAL SOCIAL SECURITY COOPERATION

With a view to provide an umbrella social security system for the emigrant workers in the developed countries, the Ministry has entered into bilateral social security cooperation with a number of countries. In November 2006 the Ministry signed bilateral social security agreement with Belgium. During November 2007 negotiations with the Belgian delegations were held in India for finalizing the Administrative Arrangements. The two sides agreed to a common draft, which was initialed. The Arrangements will be signed shortly and thereafter the social security agreement will come into force on mutual confirmation of the completion of ratification procedures.

Negotiations are underway with Germany and the Netherlands. Process has been initiated in respect of the Czech Republic, France, Sweden, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Norway and Cyprus too. Bilateral discussions with the USA on social security issues are also under finalization.

(viii) LIBERALIZATION OF THE EMIGRATION SYSTEM

The Ministry has undertaken a number of steps for liberalizing the Emigration system. The number of countries where Emigration Clearance is not Required (ECNR) has been increased from 53 to 174 recently and Emigration check is now required only for 18 countries. The eligibility criteria for ECNR passport have also been further relaxed and anybody who is class 10 pass or above can proceed on overseas employment without emigration clearance.

Abolition of ECR Suspension (ECRS)

The Ministry has abolished the procedure which required an ECR passport holder proposing to go abroad on a visit visa to obtain ECR suspension from the POE. The procedure was resulting in inconvenience, harassment and corruption without serving any good cause. This reform will benefit about 5-6 lakh ECR passport holders every year.

Revamping of the Recruitment System

Steps have been taken to revamp the Recruiting Agent system to ensure better enforcement of the emigration laws on ground and curb illegal recruitments. Under this initiative, the eligibility criteria for registration of recruiting agents will be made stringent, performance standards will be prescribed and monitoring will be strengthened. The Emigration Rules are being amended to implement this initiative.

E-Governance in the Emigration System

Computerization of Emigration process with the objective of implementing E-Governance in emigration has been undertaken. The scheme involves computerization of the offices of Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) and eight Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) and phased interlinking with Recruiting Agents, employers, Immigration counters, Indian Missions abroad, insurance companies and State Governments etc. This would bring about greater user convenience, transparency and accountability in the emigration system, facilitation of legal emigration and prevention of illegal emigration and effective protection and welfare of the emigrant workers.

(ix) AISA-EU PROJECT

An MOU was signed on 31st July 2007 between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for implementation of the project "Regional Dialogue and Program on Facilitating Managed and Legal Migration between Asia and the European Union (EU)". The project is sponsored by the European Union (EU) and covers 10 Asian countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; for some activities Afghanistan) and 5 European countries (Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and UK). The project will provide an opportunity for capacity building towards emigration management, to develop overseas employment market in the strategically important European countries and upgrade the Indian workers in the wage chain.

(x) OVERSEAS WORKERS RESOURCE CENTRE (OWRC)

The Ministry has set up an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) as a Helpline for rendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment. The objectives of the OWRC include:

- Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration.
- Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers.
- Grievance redressal and follow up with stakeholders.

The OWRC has a Helpline with a toll free number 1800 11 3090, accessible from anywhere in India. The Helpline is presently functioning in seven languages viz Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Kannada and Telugu from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm, seven days a week.

(xi) SCHEME OF SKILL UPGRADATION AND PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION OF EMIGRANT WORKERS

The Ministry launched a Scheme for 'Skill up-

gradation and Pre-departure Orientation to prospective emigrant workers' in diverse sectors such as construction, engineering, manufacturing, nursing, IT and household services etc. The Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the State Governments, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), as well as Apex Industry Associations, NGOs, etc. The objective of the Scheme is to promote overseas employment of Indian workers and to improve productivity and prosperity amongst overseas Indian workers through Skill development of emigrant Indian Workers and equipping them with the basic knowledge about laws, language and culture of the destination countries.

(xii) AWARENESS CAMPAIGN THROUGH MEDIA

The Ministry has launched an Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign through the electronic Media on the following three issues:

- (i) Problems faced by emigrant workers and the legal Emigration Process;
- (ii) Problem relating to NRI Marriages; and
- (iii) Problems relating to Indian Housemaids overseas.

The objectives of the Awareness Campaign is to create wider awareness among the potential emigrants about the Legal Immigration Process, precautions to be taken against illegal practices by fraudulent recruiting Agencies, problems faced by Housemaids abroad and problems in NRI marriages. The campaign strives to provide information to those who are facing such problems.

(xiii) SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN (SPDC)

With a view to foster and strengthen India's bond with our young and aspiring student community abroad, as also to promote India as a favoured destination for quality higher education, the Ministry has initiated a scholarship scheme for Diaspora Children. 141 scholarships have been granted till 31-3-2008 and students selected for such scholarships would become

brand Ambassadors for India and its educational institutions.

(xiv) KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

Ministry organizes the Know India Programme which is a comprehensive orientation programme of 3 to 4 weeks duration for the younger generation of overseas Indians in the age group of 18-26 years every year. The objective of the programme is to provide a forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to share their views, expectations and experiences and bond with contemporary India. 8 such Know India Programmes involving 235 youths have been conducted so far.

(xv) PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS (PBD)

The Ministry organizes Pravasi Bhartiya Divas with a view to provide a platform for bringing the expertise and knowledge of the overseas Indian community and integrating it with the country's development process. The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is the flagship event of the Ministry held in January every year to commemorate the home coming of the greatest Pravasi, Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to the shores of India on 9th January, 1915 to lead the National Freedom Movement. Six PBDs have been held so far and these events have helped to convey to the overseas Indian community the keen interest of the Government of India in their progress, achievements and well beings and also to encourage them to involve in various fields of development activities. The Ministry also confers Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awards to eminent overseas Indians to recognize their achievements and their contributions in fostering India's prestige and interests abroad.

(xvi) MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY MARRIAGES WITH OVERSEAS INDIANS

Scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian Spouses

The Ministry has launched a scheme to provide legal and counseling services to women in need and

facing desertion/divorce proceedings in courts overseas through Indian Missions abroad. Under the scheme, funds have been placed at the disposal of Indian Missions in USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the countries in Gulf which will be released to the Indian Women's Associations, NGOs etc empanelled with the Missions to provide legal and counseling services to Indian women victims of NRI marriages.

Information Pamphlets

The Ministry has brought out information pamphlets in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam and Telugu to make Indian women aware of their rights and responsibilities and the precautions to be taken before entering into marital alliance with overseas Indians. These pamphlets have been sent to the State Governments concerned for distribution through Village Panchayats, Anganwadis, Railway Stations, Airports, Hospitals/Dispensaries, NGOs/Self Help Groups etc. The Ministry has also brought out information pamphlets in English, Hindi and various regional languages on the scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses.

Guidance Booklet on NRI Marriages

The Ministry has brought out a guidance booklet on "Marriages to Overseas Indians" for the benefit of prospective brides and their families. This booklet contains information on safeguards available to women deserted by their NRI spouses, legal remedies available, authorities that can be approached for redressal of grievances and non governmental organizations which can provide assistance. The guidance booklet is being sent to all States/UTs and the Indian Missions in the countries having high concentration of Indian diaspora for wide dissemination of information among the groups concerned. Now, the Ministry is bringing out the guidance booklet in Hindi, Punjab and Telugu.

(b) All the schemes and programmes of the Ministry are funded from its Budget. The expenditure incurred during the last 3 years is indicated below:

Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)
2005-2006	17.4
2006-2007	22.0
2007-2008	37*

(*provisional Estimate)

(c) and (d) In addition to the major achievements indicated in para (a) above, the Ministry intends to further broad base its activities with a view to fulfill its mandate. Some of the proposed activities are as under:

(i) Welfare Fund for Overseas Indian Workers

The Ministry intends to set up a Welfare Fund for the protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers. The fund will provide onsite, offsite and social security services to the overseas workers including humanitarian assistance to emigrants in distress in host countries through the Indian missions. This Fund will be a nonprofit initiative and will be managed by a Trust.

(ii) Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of PIOs

On the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2008, the Prime Minister announced establishment of a 'Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of PIOs'. The proposed Council would serve as a strategic high level 'think tank' comprising of people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines and recognized as 'Global Leaders' in their respective fields. The Council would provide a Forum for the Prime Minister to draw upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the best Indian minds, wherever they may be based. This Forum would also sustain India's engagement with its Overseas Community and foster better understanding with the diverse Indian Diaspora.

(iii) India Development Foundation

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs would be setting up an India Development Foundation as an autonomous not-to-profit Trust to provide a credible institutional

mechanism to direct the contributions of overseas Indians into human development efforts in India. The Foundation will assist overseas Indians to contribute to the cause of education, health and rural development in their erstwhile home villages, Districts or States. It will also partner with credible NGOs and philanthropic organizations actively engaged in social development, thus providing a strong public-private partnership bridge between overseas Indians and their target beneficiaries.

[Translation]

Involvement of Youths In Nation-Building Process

5245. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme to involve the youth of the country in the nation-building process on voluntary basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for such scheme;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the working and achievements of National Service Volunteers Scheme (NSVS);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the NSVS more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) Under the National Service Scheme (NSS), National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS) and the Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana (RSY) volunteers are enrolled and given an opportunity to serve the community in a variety of areas of social concern and importance. Financial assistance is also extended to Bharat Scouts and Guides. The scheme titled National Programme for Youth Adolescent Development (NPYAD) has been formulated, with effect from current financial year, by merger of four 100% central sector grants-in-aid schemes with an objective to develop leadership qualities and personality development of youth and to channelise their energy

towards socio-economic development and growth of the nation.

(b) During the financial year 2008-09, under the scheme of NSS Rs. 76.88 crores is allocated. Rs. 15.50 crores is allocated under NSVS, Rs. 9.50 crores is allocated in RSY and Rs. 3 crores is allocated under Scouts and Guiding.

(c) and (d) IIM, Ahmedabad who was *inter-alia* entrusted the responsibility of evaluating the scheme of National Service Volunteer Scheme observed in their emerging trends that the volunteers are a great help in reaching out to youth/youth clubs and that the National Service Volunteers evince a high level of enthusiasm to contribute for the cause of nation-building.

(e) To make NSVS more effective, training of Volunteers has been given special attention and volunteers are included in the District Advisory Committee on Youth Programmes.

[English]

Lymphatic Filariasis Disease

5246. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of people affected by Lymphatic Filariasis is increasing in the country during the last three years including the current year;

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

(c) whether any foreign assistance including that of WHO has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to curb the said disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government of India launched countrywide campaign of Elimination of

Lymphatic filariasis (ELF) in 2004. Lymphatic filariasis is a chronic disease and has manifestations like lymphoedema (elephantiasis) and hydrocele. Government of India carried out house to house survey in collaboration with the endemic States/UTs for enlisting cases of Lymphoedema and hydrocele prior to Annual Mass Drug Administration with single dose of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) tablets since the year 2004 in order to provide them services for prevention of attacks of acute lymphangitis (high fever, swelling and pain in affected part of the body) and acute lymphadenitis (swelling of lymph glands, pain and fever) and surgical operation for hydrocele. The line listing of Lymphoedema and hydrocele cases as reported from filaria endemic States is being updated every year as the community tries to hide if they are affected with Lymphoedema or Hydrocele and repeated persuasion is required.

The State-wise list of Lymphoedema and Hydrocoele cases reported by the States is attached as statement.

(c) and (d) The assistance received from WHO was in terms of supply of limited quantity of Albendazole tablets for co-administration alongwith the DEC tablets in Tamil Nadu and Kerala to the population living at the risk of Lymphatic filariasis excluding children below 2 years, pregnant women and seriously ill persons.

WHO has supplied about 61 million tablets of Albendazole (400 mg. each) during the year 2006-07 which were used during Mass Drug Administration-2007.

(e) For interruption of transmission of lymphatic filariasis, Government of India launched the campaign of annual mass drug administration with single dose of Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC) tablets to the population living at the risk of lymphatic filariasis except children below 2 years, pregnant women and seriously ill persons. The coverage achieved in 2007. Is about 81% in comparison to the coverage of about 73% in 2004.

In addition, Government of India has provided assistance to the States in terms of cash and antifilarial drugs for carrying out various preparatory activities like training, IEC, drug distribution, etc.

In order to provide relief to the chronic patients affected with lymphatic filariasis with manifestations of lymphoedema and hydrocele, the line-listing of such cases were initiated and the simple home based hygienic washing methods were demonstrated to maintain the foot hygiene for protection against secondary bacterial and fungal infections.

Statement

State-wise details of Lymphoedema and Hydrocele cases

Sl. No.	State	2004			2005			2006			2007		
		Lympho- edema	Hydro- cele	Total	Lympho- edema	Hydro- cele	Total	Lympho- edema	Hydro- cele	Total	Lympho- edema	Hydro- cele	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2250	191	2441	43766	908	44674	43766	908	44674	43766	908	44674
2.	Assam	28	17	45	341	144	485	341	144	485	341	144	485
3.	Bihar	136216	119088	255304	196989	145211	342200	196989	145211	342200	196989	145211	342200
4.	Chhattisgarh	674	150	824	6532	2861	9393	6532	2861	9393	6532	2861	9393
5.	Goa	51	1	52	212	1	213	212	1	213	212	1	213
6.	Gujarat	895	204	1099	895	204	1099	895	204	1099	895	319	1214
7.	Jharkhand	7128	2562	9690	43951	12639	56590	43951	10351	54302	43951	10351	54302
8.	Karnataka	7674	1114	8788	15306	2770	18076	15306	2770	18076	15306	2770	18076
9.	Kerala	8399	507	8906	10840	1232	12072	10840	1232	12072	10840	1632	12472
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4855	3646	8501	5929	4258	10187	5929	4258	10187	5986	4329	10315
11.	Maharashtra	35896	24421	60317	48177	37699	85876	48177	37975	86152	48310	37975	86285
12.	Orissa	36247	31324	117571	51840	32850	84690	51840	32850	84690	51840	32850	84690
13.	Tamil Nadu	25864	8794	34658	25313	16181	41494	25313	16181	41494	25313	16689	42002

14. Uttar Pradesh	1949	1173	3122	86465	41463	127928	86465	41463	127928	86465	42508	128973
15. West Bengal	41479	33418	74897	46943	36052	82995	46943	36052	82995	46943	37502	84445
16. Pondicherry	1257	139	1396	1296	117	1413	1296	117	1413	1296	117	1413
17. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	76	49	125	81	37	118	81	37	118	81	37	118
18. Daman and Diu	68	6	74	63	27	90	63	24	87	63	24	87
19. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	3	73	78	30	108	78	30	108	78	30	108
20. Lakshadweep	158	0	158	172	21	193	172	21	193	172	21	193
Total	361234	226807	588041	585189	334705	919894	585189	332690	917879	585379	336279	921658

Hepatitis-B Disease

5247. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate facilities/infrastructure exist for treatment of Hepatitis-B;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing priority treatment to the people suffering from Hepatitis-B?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Hepatitis-B is caused by infection with Hepatitis-B virus (HBV). HBV can cause acute disease with symptoms like yellowing of skin and eyes, dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. However, the chronic cases of Hepatitis-B develop into cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer, which is almost fatal.

While the general health care delivery system in the country is well equipped to handle various diseases including Hepatitis-B, the disease is effectively tackled through preventive measures including vaccination. The Government has launched a pilot project of immunization of Hepatitis-B free of cost for children below one year only. Hepatitis-B vaccination has commenced and has been continuing since 2003-04. Vaccine for Hepatitis-B is available in the country at affordable price.

Besides, following measures have been taken to prevent infection of Hepatitis-B:

- (i) Central Government hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- (ii) Since Hepatitis-B spreads through unsafe sex and unsafe blood transfusion, guidelines have been issued for mandatory blood testing in blood banks. Promotion of safe sex is also advocated under National AIDS Control Programme.

- (iii) Health awareness campaigns regarding dangers of using non-sterile syringes and needles are also held. Guidelines have also been issued to State Health authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Extinction of Sea-Turtles

5248. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sea-turtles in the country are facing extinction;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to conserve these turtles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the reports available, five species of marine turtles, viz., the Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green Sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) are found in Indian territorial waters and four species (except the Loggerhead turtle) nest on Indian coasts. Though all these five species are endangered, there are no specific reports of any of these species facing extinction in our country. However, a number of activities like indiscriminate trawling by mechanized boats, high intensity disturbances due to unplanned coastal development, predation of eggs by jackals, dogs and other carnivores and human interference etc. pose a danger to long term conservation of these species.

(c) The Steps taken by the Government to conserve the species are as follows:

- (i) Sea turtles like Green Sea turtles, Olive Ridley turtles, Hawksbill turtle; Leathery turtle, Logger head turtle, etc. are included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording highest degree of protection.

- (ii) The main nesting grounds of Sea Turtles have been declared as Protected Areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife including sea turtles.
- (iv) Fishermen have been advised to use Turtle Excluding Devise (TED) during trawling and to avoid trawling during nesting seasons. The State of Orissa has also made it mandatory for all trawling boats to use TED.
- (v) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas. Patrolling in the coastal areas is done by the State Government with the cooperation of the Indian Coast Guards.
- (vi) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
- (vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (viii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (ix) Awareness campaigns are organized in coastal areas for general public for conservation of sea turtles.

Financial Health of SCI

5249. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profit/loss earned/incurred by the Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the profit of the Corporation has been decreasing over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the bottomline of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The profit earned by Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years is as under:

Year	Rs. in Crores
2004-05	1419.91
2005-06	1042.20
2006-07	1014.58

(b) and (c) The profit of Shipping Corporation of India SCI over the last ten years has been as follows:—

Year	Rs. in Crores
1997-98	246.20
1998-99	201.30
1999-2000	161.60
2000-01	382.60
2001-02	241.60
2002-03	274.80
2003-04	627.00
2004-05	1419.91
2005-06	1042.20
2006-07	1014.58

As seen from above, the profit of SCI from

1997-1998 to 2002-2003 varied from Rs. 161.60 crore during the year 1999-2000 to Rs. 382.60 crore in the year 2000-2001. The profit increased substantially in the year 2003-2004 to Rs. 627 crore. Further, the profit increased to Rs.1419.91 crore for the year 2004-05 which included an extraordinary income of Rs. 295.48 crore on account of write back of deferred tax and, therefore, after adjustment of this amount, the adjusted profit would be Rs. 1124.43 crore. Thereafter, the profit of SCI has marginally decreased to Rs. 1014.58 crore during the year 2006-2007. Shipping industry is a cyclical industry and freight rates are affected by demand and supply of cargo as well as tonnage. Due to this, the profit of SCI also fluctuates.

(d) Shipping industry is a cyclical industry and further freight rates in the different segments of the market like Bulk Carriers, Tankers and Liners do not move in tandem with each other. SCI is a diversified company, having its presence in all segments of shipping and hence has a natural hedge against adverse movement of the market. SCI tries to ensure that all its vessels are deployed on an optimal mix of spot and time charter, to take advantage of the market conditions. In case of Liner trade, SCI has exited out of the loss making India-US service, thus cutting its costs. SCI also tries to ensure that its vessels are maintained properly, to reduce the breakdown time and cost of vessels. Further, SCI is in the process of implementing an integrated information system, which would increase the efficiency of the company.

Achievements of Panchayati Raj Ministry

5250. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has evaluated its performance during the last two years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to further improve the functioning of the Ministry on the basis of said evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has brought out a compilation titled 'The State of Panchayats Report—2006' on the basis of the information received from the State Governments in November, 2006. This Report was placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 23 November 2006 and Debated in the Lok Sabha in December 2006.

During the year 2007-08, it was felt that an independent evaluation in this regard be got done through an institute of repute. Accordingly, the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) was requested by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to undertake an independent assessment of the State of Panchayats in India. The Compilation of "The State of Panchayats 2007-08: An Independent Assessment" (SoPR 2007-08) marks an important landmark in India's grand democratic experiment. This document demonstrates the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's commitment to bring to the fore the state of democratic principles percolating to the local governance in rural India even as India's socio-economic transformation leads the country in new and promising directions.

With the vision of ushering in a democratic and participatory governance system in the country, the Constitution of India was amended in 1992 to introduce a three level Panchayat system. It was hoped that as institutions of grassroots democracy, Panchayats would contribute to attaining the goals of accelerated growth with social justice. Since these historic amendments, the country has witnessed an unprecedented growth in the number of grassroots democratic institutions. There are now 2,33,606 Gram Panchayats, 6,094 Intermediate Panchayats and 543 District Panchayats. There are close to 26,78,000 elected representatives at the village level, 1,58,000 at intermediate level and 15,600 at district level. A little below 37% of the elected representatives are women and a little over 30% belong to the socio-historically disadvantaged section of society. A number of measures have been taken by the Union and State Governments since 1992 to enable Panchayats

to function as empowered institutions fully involving the common citizens in governance process and in turn, in equitably delivering the results of economic growth. The SoPR 2007-08 is an attempt to make an assessment of the achievements of Panchayats and finding ways for their strengthening in future.

The SoPR 2007-08 consists of three volumes. Volume-I presents a critical assessment of the progress of Panchayats as institutions of self-government, and the role played by them in attaining the goals of economic growth and social justice. The Volume is based on thematic essays prepared by independent experts in different fields from all over the country who have attempted assessment of Panchayats on particular themes of importance. This Volume, besides synthesizing findings from a diversity of sources, also identifies mechanisms through which Panchayats can contribute towards the goal of inclusive growth as envisaged in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Volume-II of the SoPR presents a profile of 25 States and 6 Union Territories with regard to the state of Panchayats. It builds the narratives around two broad themes; 'effective devolution' and 'functioning of Panchayats'. The volume has used the 18 dimensional matrix identified for mapping the speedy devolution of powers and functions to Panchayats. Volume-III is a compendium of various policy circulars and documents issued by Central and State governments from time to time in strengthening the Panchayat system in the country.

(c) At the attainment of the "15th Anniversary of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) 1992", the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has convened a National Convention of Presidents of Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis on 22-24 April, 2008 at Burari Ground, North Delhi. The major items discussed in the Convention are viz. Fifteenth Anniversary Charter of Panchayati Raj, devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), training facilities for PRIs, Computer networking of PRIs. 'The Fifteen Anniversary Charter on Panchayati Raj' was presented to the Prime Minister of India in this convention. A copy is annexed as statement.

Statement

Fifteenth Anniversary Charter on Panchayati Raj "Inclusive Growth through Inclusive Governance" April 2008

1.1. Gandhiji believed that democratic freedoms have to be founded in institutions of self-government in every village in India. He drew his inspiration from the traditional Panchayats; 'village republics', which he called Panchayati Raj. He based his vision of contemporary democracy in independent India on genuine peoples' participation in the development and welfare of their own habitats through elected Panchayats. Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the father of our Constitution, provided for Village Panchayats in the State List of the Seventh Schedule, but consistently stressed the need to incorporate reservations for the depressed segments of our society in the structure of Panchayati Raj. Rajiv Gandhi ensured this and added reservations for women of all said categories in Panchayats. His declared objective was 'Power to the People' through the Panchayats, thus making India not only the world's biggest democracy, but also the world's most representative democracy.

1.2. Today, more than 26 lakh representatives stand elected to the three levels of Panchayats. Of these, over 10 lakh are women, 5.2 lakh belong to the Scheduled Castes and 3.3 lakh to the Scheduled Tribes. The last fifteen years of Panchayati Raj have thus succeeded in empowering marginalized groups who have gained political representation and valuable experience. Many of them have successfully taken on the challenge of governance and brought about enduring social change through their close links with the community.

1.3. Speaking to the Chief Ministers less than a month after he assumed office, the Prime Minister said that Panchayati Raj is the medium to transform rural India into 700 million opportunities and the challenge is to institutionalize this system of local governance to make India the world's most representative and participatory democracy.

1.4. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1993 ushered in a new era of democratic decentralization, in which both powers and responsibilities are devolved upon elected Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Village levels. The Eleventh Five-year Plan, which has identified Inclusive Growth as the overarching objective, seeks to *'substantially empower and use PRIs as the primary means of delivery of essential services that are critical to inclusive growth.'* The Plan asserts that *'it is absolutely critical for the inclusiveness of our growth process that these large numbers of elected representatives in our PRIs are fully involved in planning, implementing and supervising the delivery of essential public services.'* A detailed road map as to how this could be achieved has been elaborated in Chapter 10 of the Plan document entitled 'Governance', which recognizes decentralization and strengthening of PRIs as a major challenge. The stage is set for a new era of strong and effective local self-government.

1.5. Yet many obstacles to genuine empowerment of people through the Panchayats remain. Though States have enacted Panchayati Raj legislation, real devolution of powers and responsibilities so as to empower Panchayats as institutions of self-government is yet to happen. Progress in this respect has been uneven. In many States, Panchayats have not been able to become effective instruments of economic development and social justice as devolution of functions, funds and functionaries have remained largely on paper.

2. We, the elected representatives of the people of India, serving through the Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels, believe that we are on the threshold of a new dawn where the Panchayats will fully assume the mantle of vibrant local self-government as enshrined in the Constitution. To fulfill the high hopes and aspirations of the lakhs of Panchayat elected representatives we have drafted and adopted this Charter as our road map and seek the guidance and support of State and Central governments, to fulfill the dreams of the Father of the Nation.

3. Functional empowerment of Panchayats:

3.1. By now Panchayats at the district, intermediate

and village levels have experience of working for about 15 years as Local Governments. We are competent enough to shoulder the responsibility and exercise powers in respect of all the 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Hence, all 29 matters listed must be fully devolved along with funds and functionaries upon the Panchayats in all States.

3.2. All States have enacted Panchayati Raj laws that devolve some matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution to the Panchayats. However, formal legal provisions should be implemented in spirit through undertaking a detailed activity mapping to assign to each level of Panchayats activities relating to the particular functions devolved. Activity mapping should not merely give us powers of 'promotion' of programmes, but also substantive powers in local planning and implementation. To ensure clarity and sustainability in the devolution of activities to Panchayats, States should ideally route the activity mapping through legislative measures.

3.3. Various parallel Societies, Agencies, Committees and Missions which have been created by central and state level line ministries and departments to implement specific schemes that fall in the Panchayat domain, such as District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Horticultural Mission (NHM) societies etc. must be either abolished or merged or brought into a suitable institutional relationship with appropriate levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions so that Panchayats have full control over technical and non-technical manpower working under them and their plans and programmes. Such agencies must be invariably headed by the Chairperson of the Panchayat at the appropriate level.

3.4. In order that Panchayats function as institutions of self-government, their domain has to be widened. Revenue, Regulation and Development functions must be devolved upon Panchayats. Devolution of Judicial powers and Police may also be considered.

3.5. In order to establish organic linkages between

Panchayats at all levels and District Planning Committees (DPCs), elected representatives of village and intermediate tiers should also be given representation in the DPCs, in addition to the representation given to members of the Zilla Panchayats.

3.6. Administrative and financial procedures of the State and Central governments must be simplified and redesigned to facilitate planning and implementation by Panchayati Raj Institutions. Existing delegated legislation, codes, rules, and executive orders which were designed for an older hierarchical and centralized administrative system are no longer relevant for this new governance system.

3.7. Globalization and liberalization has thrown up both challenges and opportunities for all levels of the Government. The Panchayats cannot be hesitant any longer. We must look beyond higher level governments to design and implement programmes that meet local needs and promote the prosperity of our people. We will inculcate in ourselves the spirit of self-help and take up locally driven initiatives which need not necessarily be funded by the central and state governments.

4. Financial empowerment of Panchayats:

4.1. State and Central Governments must ensure that there is regularity and clarity in the flow of funds to Panchayats. To this end, it is essential to pattern the flow of finances to each tier of the Panchayati Raj System in strict conformity with the pattern of activity mapping for functions. It is only if functions and finances are matched that effective devolution of powers to the Panchayats will be ensured. With this in view, a Panchayat sector window should be opened in the budgets of all line departments to ensure the flow of funds to each tier of the Panchayats to finance the functions devolved on them. These schemes may be consolidated into a single Panchayat sector window, a practice followed by several States and some of the tribal areas covered by the Sixth Schedule.

4.2. Similar Activity Mapping for functions and finances is required for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and other Central government funding streams such as Additional Central Assistance to enable local

planning and implementation by Panchayats. The guidelines of those that pertain to the functional domain of Panchayats must be modified to ensure the centrality of Panchayats at all three levels in planning and implementation, as is the case with the Backward Regions Grant Fund, the Central Finance Commission grants and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Priority must be given to modifying the guidelines of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhayan (SSA), National Midday Meals Programme (MDM), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Total Sanitation Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, (PMGSY) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) and Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Compendia of all guidelines of flagship centrally sponsored schemes should be regularly published and distributed in local languages, so that Panchayats have upto date information on them.

4.3. With respect to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the District Programme Coordinator and the Programme Officer must work within the overall control and supervision of the District and Intermediate Panchayat Respectively. This can be achieved by mandating that the CEO of the District Panchayat should be designated as the District Programme Coordinator and the Executive Officer of the Intermediate Panchayat as the Programme Officer.

4.4. Devolution of untied funds through block grant transfers by the Central and State Finance Commissions should substantially increase to keep pace with the increasing responsibilities entrusted to Panchayats for the maintenance and upkeep of local public services and infrastructure development. Central Finance Commission Grants must supplement the funds devolved to Panchayats, and must not be subsumed into funds transfers made by States to the Panchayats.

4.5. There must be a separate funding window in the Central Government to fund innovative proposals prepared by Panchayats, in the same manner as is available to NGOs.

4.6. Funds devolved to Panchayats by central and state governments ought to reach them directly with as few intermediate steps as is necessary. There should be uniform guidelines for funds flow applicable to all Schemes across all Ministries and all States, with time limits fixed for funds to reach the Panchayats. Funds should reach each Panchayat promptly after it has submitted its utilization reports. Current initiatives in computerization of treasuries and transfer of funds electronically through banking channels should be adopted quickly by all fund transferring agencies.

4.7. The devolution of funds to Panchayats in Union Territories presents special problems, as there is no separate funding window in the Central budget to channelise funds to them for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Arrangements may be made in the Central budget to channelise funds to Panchayats in Union Territories directly, in accordance with the devolution of functions to them.

4.8. The proposed Central Scheme and Programme Monitoring System should enable the tracking of both release of funds and submission of progress reports and utilization certificates by each Panchayat. It should also function as a financial information system, so that all Panchayats are aware of when funds are released by Central and State governments. All notifications regarding funds released to the States should be communicated to all levels of Panchayats to facilitate planning.

4.9. Panchayats currently underutilize the powers of taxation and user charge collection given to them. We will take earnest steps to mobilize our own revenue by undertaking systematic and timely assessments to fully survey our tax base and enforce tax collection, through a campaign mode approach.

4.10. There must be no conditionalities imposed by States on the expenditure and investments by Panchayats from their own revenues.

4.11. Panchayats should have access to bank credit to take up development projects such as universal housing for the poor, support to SHGs and their federations and construction of remunerative infra-

structure assets. The Government of India should frame a policy framework in this regard.

5. Improving the capacities of Panchayats through devolution of functionaries, training, Panchayat level office infrastructure and provision of technical support.

5.1. Provision of staff for the Panchayats:

Staff of the line departments relating to devolved matters should be placed under the control of Panchayats, through a separate cadre management system for such Panchayat staff. Functionaries relating to health, drinking water supply, education, public distribution system and livelihoods should be transferred immediately to the Gram Panchayats. Progressively, staff for performing functions devolved should be recruited by Panchayats. All three levels of Panchayats should have access to the best talent to head their administration at their CEO level. This could be through an open selection process or through deputation of senior level officials from the State Governments for a fixed tenure. While still working under the overall supervision and control of the President of the Zilla Panchayat and the Council, enhanced powers may be given to the EO of the Panchayats concerned so that he can better coordinate with line departments. Clear powers of management and control must be given to the Chairpersons of all levels of Panchayats, including clearly specified financial powers. All confidential reports of officials working under the Panchayats should be written by the Panchayat Presidents at the appropriate level.

5.2. Provision of adequate remuneration for elected Panchayat representatives at the District, Intermediate and Village levels:

The elected representatives of Panchayats at all three levels shoulder the responsibility of preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and also carry out responsibilities of managing their Panchayat affairs. With the increasing emphasis on implementation of flagship schemes relating to rural service delivery at the Panchayat level, elected Panchayat ward members and sarpanches are working

full time and receive only nominal honoraria and sitting fees for their efforts. Panchayat elected representatives at all three levels are executive authorities and beyond attending meetings of the Panchayats and standing committees, they also undertake field inspections, ward visits and attend meetings of line department offices. With increasing responsibilities being given to Panchayats at all three levels, there is a need to make adequate provision for Traveling Allowances, Daily Allowances and provide adequate remuneration to the Panchayat representatives at all three levels in the same manners as is provided for MPs and MLAs. This matter should be addressed by State and Central governments.

5.3. Training for Panchayat elected representatives and officials:

5.3.1. Panchayat elected representatives and officials should be provided sustained and high quality training through a system that fulfils their own training needs. Training must also be flexible enough to meet specific requirements of Panchayats. Training materials should be easily accessible electronically and through help lines, call centers, interactive broadcasts and other modes of distance learning and replies to frequently asked questions, prepared in the local language. To this end, we demand the acceptance and implementation of the Gairola Committee Report commissioned by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which has recommended an outlay of Rs. 7700 crore to ensure satellite and internet connectivity to every Panchayat level within the next three years. This will not only facilitate distance training of all elected Panchayat members and office bearers as well as Panchayat officials, but also facilitate transparency, accountability and vigilance.

5.3.2. Training and communication should not be viewed as a single one-time intervention but should be a continuous, ongoing process leading to an enhanced sense of self esteem and confidence. Training should cover both the "before" and "after" election periods. Initial training and communication should reach all elected representatives within one year.

5.3.3. Panchayat training must promote a culture of oneness amongst Panchayats through exposure visits and interactions between districts and States. Peer to peer learning, both within and outside the state through regional or national tie ups and visits to beacon Panchayats should be encouraged and supported, so as to spread innovations and best practices.

5.3.4. There must be specialised training programmes for different groups, such as for women Panchayat representatives, SC/ST members and young representatives in accordance with a training calendar. There should also be combined training of Panchayat representatives alongwith functionaries.

5.3.5. Special training programmes must be organized in areas covered by the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 so as to have regard to the cultural traditions and special needs of tribal people.

5.3.6. Semi-literate or illiterate PRI members should be given special training to enable them to achieve functional literacy within six months to a year.

5.3.7. Panchayat members should be actively involved in the preparation of training syllabi. Experienced Panchayat members and former members should be encouraged to become resource persons for further training of panchayat representatives.

5.3.8. Special efforts must be made to undertake training and awareness campaigns for Social Audit by Gram Sabhas. Adequate notice must be given for the conduct of Gram and Ward Sabha meetings so as to ensure that there is wider participation in them.

5.3.9. Capacity Building programmes must also be taken up in the 6th Schedule Areas and those areas that are not covered by the provisions of Panchayati Raj.

5.3.10. Education in local governance should be included in school syllabi so as to inculcate the spirit of participation in local self-governments amongst children.

5.3.11. Training should become a two way process so that feedback can help in reforming the content and

process of training, as also result in systemic changes in Panchayat and government functioning. Independent training impact assessment studies should be periodically undertaken to assess the outcomes of training and identify emerging needs for follow up.

5.3.12. State Institutions of Rural Development and other institutions for training of Panchayat representatives must be strengthened with better infrastructure, more resource persons and facilities such as distance education and research wings.

5.4 Provision of Physical Infrastructure and Information Technology for Panchayats:

5.4.1. All Panchayats must be provided adequate physical infrastructure in the form of adequate office space, meeting and waiting rooms, toilets, recreational facilities, IT, telephone and road connectivity.

5.4.2. For effective performance, Panchayats should rely of state of the art technology, particularly on information technology and computerization of their operations. The Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj should be fully funded implemented in a time bound fashion within the next three years.

5.5 Extending the reservation cycle to three terms:

In order to build and retain capacity and leadership among categories for whom seats are reserved in Panchayats, States shall consider favourably extending the reservation cycle to three five-year terms. The Minimum term of Chairpersons of Panchayats should be five years.

5.6 Removal of the two child norm:

There must be no restrictions applied, such as the two child norm, which prevent talented and competent persons from standing for Panchayat level elections. This norm should be abolished as it also leads to undermining the position of women and has no effect on population control.

5.7 It is not in keeping with a strong local democracy

that officers are given powers to dismiss Panchayats and assume powers as administrators of Panchayats. Such provisions should be removed from State Panchayat Raj laws.

6. Decentralized planning and implementation:

6.1. Article 243G of the Constitution envisages that Panchayats would undertake planning for social justice and economic development. Decentralised planning constitutes an important part of the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats. The Eleventh Plan has recognized that planning from the grassroots level upwards by the Panchayats is the most important step towards bringing Panchayats to the centre of local decision making and service delivery. Considerable resources are available today through a host of central and State schemes and funding mechanisms for poverty alleviation, infrastructure development and improvement of service delivery such as the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the National Rural Health Mission, ICDS, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal Programme, Drinking Water Supply and sanitation, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Irrigation Development and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. All these schemes should be planned for in a coordinated manner and included in the comprehensive plan of the Panchayat level at which they are implemented. Own resources of Panchayats should also figure in their plans.

6.2. Constitution of District Planning Committees by States in conformity with the provisions of Article 243ZD of the Constitution:

Article 243ZD of the Constitution provides that every State shall constitute at the district level a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. Of the 24 States covered by the Provisions of Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution relating to Panchayats and Municipalities respectively, 18 States have constituted District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243ZD. The remaining States must meet this constitutional mandate forthwith.

6.3. As provided for in the Constitution, each level of the Panchayati Raj system—Village, Intermediate and District—must prepare the perspective Five Year Plan and Annual Plans for their respective jurisdiction. The same exercise should be undertaken in the Municipalities of each district. The DPC should "consolidate" the plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities, as provided for in the Constitution, rather than prepare the District Plan of its own accord or of its own volition. Plans prepared by Panchayats should be respected by higher levels of government and not changed.

6.4. High allocations to and implementation of MP and MLA Local Area Development Scheme, kills the spirit of participatory planning. Implementation of these programmes must be in convergence with the programmes taken up at the Panchayat levels.

6.5. Absence of line department officials during the planning process leads to disregard of plans and deliberate interference at higher levels. It must be made mandatory for officials to be present during the planning process by Panchayats.

6.6. Panchayats conduct Gram Sabhas to not only prepare a list of works, but also to fix priorities in implementation, as funds at the Panchayats level are limited. Line departments should not prepare their own priority lists for schemes such as MP and MLA Local Area Grants and take up works without the knowledge of the Panchayats. It must comply with the priority lists prepared by the Gram Sabhas.

6.7. In keeping with the recommendations of the Ramachandran Committee on grassroots level planning in areas not covered by the provisions of Parts IX and IX A of the Constitution, suitable arrangements for district planning may be made in these areas.

6.8. Arranging technical support for DPCs to prepare district plans:

Technical support and IT support must be provided to the DPCs to assist them in their task of consolidation of district plans.

6.9. Every State must have a State Development Council, which is comprised of all presidents of Zilla.

Panchayats, to deliberate upon issues relating to planning and implementation of programmes and policies by the Panchayats. Intermediate and Village Panchayat Chairpersons should also be represented in the State Development Council.

7. Panchayati Raj in areas covered by the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution:

7.1. The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) is a Central legislation that extends the constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj to Fifth Schedule Areas, subject to certain exceptions and modifications. Nine States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have Fifth Schedule Areas. PESA lays down that every village will have a Gram Sabha which will be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and customary mode of dispute resolution. PESA provides that in Panchayats in 5th Schedule areas, there must be a minimum of fifty per cent reservation of the total number of seats for the Scheduled Tribes. All Chairpersons' seats in Panchayats are also to be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Since the PESA extends the constitutional provisions of Panchayats to Fifth Schedule areas, it must be considered as an indivisible part of the Constitution.

7.2. Gram Sabhas have been entrusted with the responsibilities of management of water bodies and licensing for the extraction of minor minerals. Gram Sabhas and Panchayats have to be consulted before any kind of land acquisition or resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons. Gram Sabhas and Panchayats at the appropriate level have been specifically given the powers and authority to enforce prohibition or to regulate or extract the sale and consumption of any intoxicant, ownership of minor forest produce, power to prevent alienation of land, powers to manage village markets, power to exercise control over money-lending, power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors. PESA provides that the recommendation of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level is mandatory

prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals. This provision should be amended to make it mandatory for obtaining the permission of the Gram Sabha, before granting prospecting licence or mining lease.

7.3. In PESA areas, the Gram Sabhas have been given executive powers and they can elect their traditional heads as the heads of the Gram Sabhas. There is a need to work out a harmonious relationship between the Gram Sabhas in PESA areas with the Gram Panchayats.

7.4. While all States have enacted requisite compliance legislations by amending the respective Panchayati Raj Acts, certain gaps continue to exist. Most states are yet to amend the subject laws, like those relating to money lending, forest, excise etc. to bring these into conformity with PESA. Consequently, compliance with PESA remains incomplete and perfunctory in virtually all States. Vital issues like the ownership of minor forest produce, planning and management of minor water bodies, prevention of alienation of tribal lands etc., which have been duly recognized in PESA as the traditional rights of tribals living in the Scheduled Areas have still not received the warranted attention and the necessary correctives remain unapplied. Central legislations such as the Indian Land Acquisition Act, the Forest Conservation Act, and the Indian Registration Act will also need to be harmonized with the provisions of PESA. States and relevant central ministries must take concrete steps to harmonize the provisions of the laws and policies concerned with the aims and objectives of PESA.

7.5. Powers statutorily devolved upon the Gram Sabha and the Panchayats are not being matched by concomitant transfer of funds and functionaries resulting in the non-exercise of such powers. Functionaries in the social sector should work under the overall supervision and control of the Gram Sabha as envisaged under PESA.

7.6. The concept of community ownership of resources in PESA areas should be integrated into the provisions of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

concerned. All community resource based schemes should involve Gram Sabhas in planning and implementation in PESA areas.

7.7. More than eleven years after its enactment there is little or no awareness about the provisions of PESA. Therefore it is imperative that all persons in PESA areas are given in-depth training on the provisions of PESA through awareness campaigns. Officials concerned with the implementation of PESA should also be properly sensitized.

7.8. Physical infrastructure in interior areas should be strengthened in order to protect the life and property of tribals. Special attention should be paid to the construction of culverts, bridges, check dams, compound walls for schools, etc.

7.9. As of now, ownership of Minor Forest Produce does not vest with tribals. Steps should be taken to ensure that they get the best remunerative price for their Minor Forest Produce.

8. Decentralisation in areas not covered by the provisions of Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution:

8.1. The entire philosophy of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is aimed at protection of tribal areas and interests, by constitutionally mandating district or regional local self-government institutions for them. These institutions are entrusted with the twin task of protecting tribal culture and customs and undertake development tasks for them. The provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the constitution should be operationalised in letter and spirit.

8.2. Areas that fall outside the purview of both Panchayati Raj and the Sixth Schedule must also provide for regular elections to local autonomous councils, so that the tribal people concerned can meet their aspirations for local democracy and decentralized and inclusive growth.

8.3. There is a significant degree of variation in the functions devolved to one Autonomous District as compared to another. The minimum extent of powers given to a District Council ought to be at least that

enunclated in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, which can be considered as an indicative list in this case also.

8.4. To make district planning in Sixth Schedule areas both inclusive and representative, Autonomous councils will need to live harmoniously with traditional arrangements. For this reason, these bodies should be given clear development functions, in addition to the regulatory, legislative and judicial powers bestowed upon them.

9. Activating community participation at the Grass-roots:

9.1. The Constitution defines Gram Sabha as a body consisting of voters relating to a village comprised within a Panchayat. The peoples' right to participate in local democracy must be interpreted in its widest sense. Therefore, the term 'Gram Sabha' must be understood in its holistic sense and not in a restrictive sense as an occasional meeting of voters. Since participation of people is most important, members of the Gram Sabha should be consulted even at their doorstep through surveys and ward and neighbourhood level meetings.

9.2. The legal framework and the practice of holding two levels of Gram Sabha meetings in some States, at the ward or habitation level and at the GP level should be implemented in all States, except in those States where the sizes of Gram Panchayats are very small.

9.3. Good Panchayat level practices such as the Kudumbashree programme of Kerala, which has fostered a vibrant participation between poor and marginalized members of the Gram Sabha, with the Gram Panchayats, should be promoted in all States.

9.4. There must be universal endowment of the Gram/Ward Sabha with meaningful empowerment through such measures as giving them powers to approve before implementation commences, plans and programmes (including budgets) for economic development and social justice prepared by the Gram Panchayat, to authorize the issuance of utilization certificates of funds allocated for the plans, projects or

programmes of the Panchayat and to undertake the identification of beneficiaries.

9.5 Social audit is an important complement to formal audit and for the sound and healthy development of Panchayati Raj, it is essential to establish a symbiotic relationship between social and formal audit. Social audits must also be undertaken for Panchayats at the Intermediate and District level and line department offices.

9.6. For social audit to be effective and based on the best practices available in different States, consideration might be given to the preparation of Social Audit Policies for adoption by State Legislatures/ Governments so as to provide a framework within which social audit is undertaken.

10. Rural Business Hubs:

10.1. Panchayats need to be aware of the opportunities that exist for them to plan for economic development of their area and could promote rural non-farm enterprises, which utilise local skills and/or resources and generate/promote rural employment through Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership.

10.2. Artisan based clusters established under different schemes of the Central or State Governments and organisations such as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the NABARD and the Development Commissioner, Handicrafts must enable a clear role for Panchayats to be proactive in enabling convergence with existing schemes. The Panchayats could also actively promote local entrepreneurship through external facilitation, capacity building, access to credit etc. and thus play the lead role for rural development and economic empowerment, by acting as the gateway for central/state schemes and interventions of bank and other institutions.

11. Incentives for Panchayat performance:

11.1. Incentives must be provided to support States to devolve more functions, functionaries and finances to the Panchayats, encourage and facilitate States to restructure the system of self-government at the

Panchayat level, motivate and assist Panchayats to use their newly enlarged responsibilities in a focused and productive fashion and ensure that Panchayats achieve standards that meet norms set out for public accountability.

11.2. Panchayats at all levels should be awarded for their annual improvement over the previous year in the achievement of the goals of transparency and accountability to their respective Gram Sabhas and efficiency in performing their roles and responsibilities.

12. Creating a National network of Panchayat representatives:

12.1. In order to gain strength from each other, share experiences and best practices and gain a collective voice, we resolve to create a national network of Panchayat elected representatives. The specific objectives of the National network would be to enable Panchayats to (a) share best practices, (b) solve local problems with experience and support gained from other Panchayats, (c) be aware of and take preventive measures against malfunctioning of Panchayats, (d) bring to the notice of higher level governments, policy makers and commissions the problems encountered by Panchayats at all levels, (e) dissemination of policies, programmes and other Panchayats related information to the Panchayats, (f) organize training programmes, field visits and study tours (g) undertake peer reviews and benchmark performances of member Panchayats at all levels (h) network with similar institutions nationally and internationally.

12.2. Every elected representative of the Panchayats at the district, intermediate and village levels will be a primary member of the Association of elected members, which will be federated in the manner described below, so as to unite members across all levels of Panchayats and across States, upto the national level.

12.3. The composition of the federation from the grassroots level upwards will be as follows:

- (a) There shall be an Intermediate level Association at each intermediate Panchayat level. The

general body of the association shall be comprised of three members selected from each Gram Panchayats. The intermediate level association shall also provide adequate representation for elected representatives of intermediate Panchayats. For the areas under the fifth Schedule, one member shall be chosen from each Gram Sabha, to the Intermediate level Association.

- (b) There shall be a District level Association for each District. The general body of the association shall be comprised of three members selected from each Intermediate level association. The District level association will also provide adequate representation for elected representatives of District Panchayats. It shall be ensured that there is adequate representation for village Panchayat representatives in the District level Association.

12.4. There shall be a State level federation for each State, the general body of which shall be comprised of three members elected from each District level association. Each of the three members selected from the district will represent one level of Panchayat.

12.5. There shall be a National level federation of elected Panchayats representatives, the general body of which shall be comprised of three members elected from each State level association. Each of the three members selected from each State shall represent one level of Panchayat. Representation from States may be increased depending on the rural population of the State.

12.6. A minimum representation of 33% for women and adequate representation for representatives belonging to the SCs and STs in the federations and associations at all levels shall be provided.

12.7. There will be an executive committee constituted for each Association and Federation, which will undertake the day to day activities of the body. A permanent office and requisite support system will be established for each Association and federation. Regular meetings of the associations and federations will be held

at quarterly intervals upto district level, half-yearly at the State level, and annually at the national level.

12.8. Every Association and Federation will have its own fund, into which may flow contributions from the Panchayats, State and Central Government, the public, NGOs, banks and funding sources.

12.9. The federations and associations will sustain and promote their networking activities through the Internet, Video Conferencing and regular broadcasts over television and community radio on Panchayat programmes.

12.10. The Associations and Federations will be registered expeditiously. A Drafting Committee of Panchayat Representatives will be constituted to draft the model Memorandum of Association and the byelaws of the Associations and the Federations.

On this historic occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Seventy third amendment, which gave Constitutional sanction, sanctity and status to Panchayati Raj, we, the elected representatives of over 80 crores of our rural brothers and sisters, rededicate ourselves to the cause of grass roots development through grass-roots democracy and pledge to work tirelessly with compassion, social justice and equity for all, for inclusive growth through inclusive governance.

[Translation]

Promotion of Traditional Sports in Rural Areas

5251. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for promotion of traditional games/sports in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rural youths have been provided an opportunity to participate in games/sports tournaments held abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the sports disciplines in which the rural youth participated in and outside the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL):

(a) and (b) The Government has recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), which aims at creation of basic sports infrastructure at grass-roots level, in all panchayats of the country, in a phased manner during 11th and 12th Five year Plan periods, and organizing sports competitions including in traditional/indigenous games at village, block and district levels. The Scheme attaches priority to the promotion of traditional/indigenous games.

(c) and (d) Sportspersons belonging to national teams are sent abroad every year for participation in international sporting events and a large number of such sportspersons hail from rural areas.

(e) National teams in most of the sport disciplines have sportspersons from rural area, particularly in disciplines such as Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Hockey, Athletics, Kabaddi, Kho Kho and Volleyball.

[English]

Rules for Waste Management

5252. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to frame rules for waste management,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend Municipal Solid Waste Management Regulations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has consulted all the stake holders in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof

(g) whether the Government proposes for effective

disposal of waste through Public Private Partnership; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Government has already framed Rules for Waste Management which include:—

- The Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as as amended in 2003;
- The Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000;
- The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1988 as amended in 2000 and 2003;
- The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001; and
- The Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rule, 1999 as amended in 2003.

(c) to (f) Meetings of the group of experts have been organized to review and suggest the revisions in the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2000. All the stakeholders will be consulted before finalizing the amendments in the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2000.

(g) and (h) The Ministry of Urban Development is the nodal body for planning and implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste scheme under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Some of the Urban Local Bodies and other organizations have set up waste collection, processing and waste disposal facilities involving private-public partnership in their areas. A number of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) have been set up for management of hazardous wastes in the country under private-public partnership.

Review of Higher Medical Education

5253. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review higher medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been set up for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In order to examine and make recommendations on the need for constitution of an independent authority to organize and regulate post-graduate medical education in the country; to maintain the standard of postgraduate medical diplomas and degrees awarded by different universities in the country including diplomat degrees awarded by the National Board of Examinations and to assess the feasibility and also recommend the modalities for establishment of such body, the Government constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Ranjit Roy Choudhury.

The Committee has submitted its report. The recommendations are under examination.

Coal Linkage for Sponge Iron Units

5254. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain sponge iron units had applied for linkage of coal;

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

(c) whether these units have been denied the benefit of getting coal at regulated price due to denial of coal linkage by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (e) Grant of long-term coal allocation to sponge iron units is a continuous process, which is decided by the Inter-ministerial Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term), for sponge iron units, constituted in Ministry of Coal in October, 2005. Since October 2005 and till date, 371 applications have been approved by the committee for grant of long-term coal/linkage/Letter of Assurance (LoA), based on extant policy. Coal India Limited Singareni

Collieries Company Limited has been allocating coal to valid linked consumers on notified price. Letter of Assurance (LoA) holders, would be required to meet the milestones before they can enter into Fuel Supply Agreement (FSAs) with coal companies for supply of coal at notified price.

The state-wise details of applications approved during last three years and details of applications yet to be approved by the committee are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State in which plant is proposed to be set up	No. of applications approved by Standing Linkage Committee (Long term) during October 2005 till March 2008	Number of applications pending for consideration
1.	West Bengal	61	21
2.	Uttar Pradesh	6	1
3.	Tamil Nadu	3	4
4.	Orissa	122	47
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4	1
6.	Maharashtra	11	7
7.	Karnataka	9	24
8.	Jharkhand	36	35
9.	Gujarat	2	2
10.	Chhattisgarh	97	29
11.	Goa	1	0
12.	Bihar	1	1
13.	Andhra Pradesh	18	14
Total		371	186

The pending applications will be taken up by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for consideration in its next meeting, based on, *inter-alia*,

recommendations of Ministry of Steel, preparedness of the plant and availability of coal etc. in accordance with the provisions of the Coal Distribution Policy.

**Report of Green Peace India on
Global Warming**

5255. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Green Peace India has recently published any report of Global Warming;

(b) if so, the details of the issues highlighted in the report;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to contain the impact of Global Warming in the country;

(d) the details of other reports published by Green Peace India regarding degradation of environment alongwith issues dealt therein; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A recent report on Global warming published by Green Peace India purports to show that climate change is the biggest environmental threat faced by South Asia. According to the Report Bangladesh, Pakistan and India could face a wave of migrants displaced by the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and drought associated with shrinking water supplies and monsoon variability. The study also indicates that major population movement from large coastal cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai to other large urban settlements such as Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Pune and Hyderabad may happen. It also mentions that the rural population is likely to migrate to urban areas because of their double exposure to climate change and globalization.

(d) and (e) The Government while framing policies and programmes takes into account relevant information from all sources. India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the

Government include *inter alia*—setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms, use of cleaner and lesser carbon-intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content.

Further, the Government has also set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change was constituted on 6th June 2007 to evolve a coordinated response relating to climate change at the National level. The Council has decided, *inter alia*, to prepare a National Action Plan on Climate Change to address the challenges of climate change.

**Modernization of Mercantile
Marine Department**

5256. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to modernize the Mercantile Marine Department in order to assist the marine Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has initiated several steps to modernize and streamline the functioning of the MMD in order to assist the marine sector. Under the scheme of E-Governance, a programme to link all Mercantile Marine Departments and Head Office to a common database on line is underway. E-Governance when finally put in place will bring about transparency and efficiency in the system which will go a long way in streamlining various statutory functions discharged by the Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs). The Directorate General of Shipping has delegated survey and certification of all vessels except passenger vessels to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), the functions that were so far being carried out by the surveyors of MMDs. An Audit of recognized classification societies is being put in place to ensure that they adhere to the necessary standards and ethics of service. Two new Regional Offices have been set up at Kandla and Kochi. In addition, district level offices of the Mercantile Marine Departments have been opened at New Mangalore, Paradip and Haldia.

Cochlear Implant Facilities for Children

5257. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the names of Hospitals in the country where facilities of Cochlear Implants are available for deaf children;

(b) the various tests that are required to be undertaken before such implant;

(c) the number of cochlear implants performed in the country during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether any implants have been done to pre-lingually deaf children above the age of 10 years;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of the children undergoing such implants?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The names of the hospitals in the country where facilities of cochlear implants are available for deaf children is not documented by the Government.

(b) The following tests are required to be undertaken to determine the suitability for Cochlear Implant.

Essential audiological tests:

- Conditioned audiometry
- Auditory Evoked Potentials, preferable tone burst audiometry brain system evoked potentials and audiometry steady state potentials
- Immittance evaluation
- Otoacoustic emission evaluation
- Hearing aid trial

Desirable audiological tests:

- Speech audiometry
- Electrical evoked brain stem potentials when indicated

Essential non audiological tests:

- CT scan and MRI of the structures of the ear including the internal auditory meatus
- Other routine tests required for any surgery

(c) to (e) No such data is maintained/available with the Government.

(f) The government have not issued any guidelines on the safety norms to be adopted for undertaking cochlear implants on the children. However all ENT surgeons conducting the surgery ensure that adequate safety measures-as taken for performing other surgeries- are being adopted for conducting Cochlear implant surgery on children.

[Translation]

**Low-Weight Satellite Developed
by IIT, Kanpur**

5258. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Kanpur has developed a small low weight satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-IIT, Kanpur Space Technology Cell, a study has been initiated for preparing a feasibility report by the faculty of IIT in consultation with ISRO scientists for developing a small satellite (less than 100 kg weight).

(c) The technologies developed during this process may help in small satellite program in future.

[English]

Packaged Drinking Water

5259. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the packaged water bottles exposed direct sunlight or stored in warm conditions become unsuitable for consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the instructions on such bottles are written in English which most shopkeepers do not understand;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Packaging under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has informed that water i.e. packaged water in bottles and consumed by human beings as defined is affected due to direct sunlight or temperature conditions at which it is stored. Some of the factors that play a prominent role in the spoilage of the product are the period of exposure to atmosphere, temperature limits, type of packaging materials used, initial quality of water before it is packed etc.

(c) to (e) Rule 33 of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 prescribes that the particulars of declaration on the label shall be in English or Hindi. The rule, however, does not prevent use of any other language in addition to the languages required under this rule.

**Review of Road Transport
Corporations Act, 1950**

5260. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted a Committee to review Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) the recommendations of the Committee and 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) and (b) A Committee under the chairmanship of Shri A.L. Agarwal, Professor (Retd.), IIT, Delhi was constituted on 14-6-2007 to review Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950. Vice President, Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (ASRTUs), Joint Secretary (Transport), Department of

Road Transport and Highways, Director, Central Institute of Road Transport, Director (Technical), ASRTUs, Managing Directors of Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation, Himachal Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation, Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Delhi Transport Corporation, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and a representative of Planning Commission are the members of the Committee. The Committee was set up with the single objective to review the Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950 keeping in view the present scenario in the road transport sector. The Committee was requested to submit its report within six months.

(c) The Committee is yet to submit its recommendations.

[Translation]

Plantation of Medicinal Plants along NHs

5261. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Committee to study the feasibility of planting medicinal plants along the National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the said Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A Core Group was set up under chairpersonship of Chief executive Officer, National Medicinal Plants Board to finalise the action plan for plantation of medicinal plants along the National Highways. The Core Group decided that instead of formulating an action plan for medicinal plants, it would be more appropriate to have generic guidelines on plantation along the highways. The Core Group also recommended that plantation and commercial exploi-

tation of medicinal plants is not advisable along the highways due to the following reasons:

- (a) Intensive operational and maintenance requirements for these plantations including requirement of huge quantities of water for irrigation;
- (b) safety hazards associated with commercial exploitation and intensive working;
- (c) Aesthetic value and visual quality of the road corridor will suffer due to non-homogeneity of the crop;
- (d) Destabilisation of the soil and the road embankment due to frequent tilling operations, continuous interference and frequent use of water.

National Highway Authority of India has already formulated a Tree Plantation Strategy which includes specifications for plantations and also recommends particular species like Neem, Jamun, Arjun, Mahua, Lasora etc. having medicinal value for different agro climatic regions in the country.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Shipping Corporation of India and the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8707/2008]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Maritime Studies, Mumbai, for the year, 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Maritime Studies, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8708/2008]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G-27038/1/98-TAMP (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2008 rescinding the Notification No. G-27038/1/98-TAMP dated the 8th August, 2001 issued under section 123A of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8709/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8710/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri E. Ahamed, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Council of World Affairs Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F(ii)/12(13)/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2008 under section 27 of the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8711/2008]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, on

behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8712/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8713/2008]

(5) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 206 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2008 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8714/2008]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8715/2008]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8716/2008]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8717/2008]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2006-2007.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8718/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8719/2008]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronic Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8720/2008]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8721/2008]

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8722/2008]

(5) Memorandum of Understanding between the

[Shri Prithviraj Chavan]

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8723/2008]

- (6) A copy of the All India Services (Performance Appraisal Report) Second Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 256(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2008 under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8724/2008]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Minister during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXVII Seventh Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8725/08]
2. Statement No. XXXVI Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8726/08]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXXVI Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8727/08]
4. Statement No. XXXIII Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8728/08]

5. Statement No. XXXVII Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8729/08]

6. Statement No. XXVII Sixth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8730/08]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

7. Statement No. XXXVIII Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8731/08]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

8. Statement No. XLIII Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8732/08]

9. Statement No. XXX Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8733/08]

10. Statement No. XXIX Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8734/08]

11. Statement No. XXV Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8735/08]

12. Statement No. XXII Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8736/08]

13. Statement No. XIX Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8737/08]

14. Statement No. XVIII Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8738/08]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

15. Statement No. XVI Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8739/08]

16. Statement No. XIV Third Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8740/08]

17. Statement No. XIV Fourth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8741/08]

18. Statement No. XI Fifth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8742/08]

19. Statement No. X Sixth Session, 2005
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8743/08]

20. Statement No. IX Seventh Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8744/08]

21. Statement No. VII Eighth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8745/08]

22. Statement No. VI Ninth Session, 2006
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8746/08]

23. Statement No. V Tenth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8747/08]

24. Statement No. III Eleventh Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8748/08]

25. Statement No. II Twelfth Session, 2007
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8749/08]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8750/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8751/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8752/2008]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

19th Report

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): I beg to

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.01¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES

Study Tour Report

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Study Tour of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on their visit to Guwahati, Kohima, Agartala and Kolkata during October-November, 2007.

12.01½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON
THE TABLE

17th Report

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and Minutes relating thereto.

12.01¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

11th and 12th Reports

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): I beg to lay on the Table the following

Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges:—

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Committee of Privileges on 'Parliamentary Privileges-Codification and related matters'; and
- (2) Twelfth Report of the Committee of Privileges on 'Requests from Courts of Law and investigating agencies, for documents pertaining to proceedings of House, Parliamentary Committees or which are in the custody of Secretary General, Lok Sabha, for production in Courts of Law and for investigation purposes.'

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment your leadership in the Committee's work. Very good Reports are being given. I hope the Members would read them.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO MISCONDUCT
OF MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA

2nd Report

[English]

SHRI V.KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): I beg to lay on the Table the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha on 'Various facets of misconduct and basic attributes of standards of conduct/behaviour expected of Members'.

12.02¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

209th Report

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred

Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants 2008-2009 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

27th, 28th and 29th Reports

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:—

- (1) Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2008-2009)" of the Department of Health and Family Welfare;
- (2) Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2008-2009)" of the Department of AYUSH; and
- (3) Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2008-2009)" of the Department of Health Research.

12.02¼ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 193rd Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8753/08.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to lay the statement. In pursuance of rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha issued by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004, I lay this Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-Third Report of the Standing Committee on HRD on Demand for Grants 2007-08 (Demand No.57) of the Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development).

The Standing Committee on HRD examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education for the year 2007-08 and presented their 193rd Report in Rajya Sabha, which was laid simultaneously in Lok Sabha on 27th April, 2007. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Action Taken Note on those recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on 25th September, 2007. The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development is making all efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

Sir, I lay the Statement along with a copy of Action Taken Note on the recommendations of 193rd Report in both the Houses of Parliament which had been submitted to the Committee.

12.03 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 174th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2006-07), pertaining to the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development***

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8754/08

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to lay the statement. In pursuance of rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha issued by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004, I beg to lay this Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-Third Report of the Standing Committee on HRD on Demand for Grants 2006-07 (Demand No.56) of the Department of Higher Education (Ministry of Human Resource Development).

The Standing Committee on HRD examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education for the year 2006-07 and presented their 174th Report in Rajya Sabha, which was laid simultaneously in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006. The recommendations contained in the Report have been examined in the Department of Secondary & Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and an Action Taken Note on those recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on 25th October, 2006. The Ministry of Human Resource Development is making all efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

Sir, I lay the Statement along with a copy of Action Taken Note on the recommendations of 174th Report in both the Houses of Parliament which had been submitted to the Committee.

12.03¼ hrs.

(III) Status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8755/08

statement in regard to status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) on the Table.

1. I feel happy to inform this August House that in the year 2007-08, about 3.37 crore rural households have been provided employment in 330 districts. 141.62 crore mandays have been generated. Each family has got an average of 42 days of employment during the year so far. Water conservation has been accorded top priority and accordingly 49 per cent of works taken up relate to water conservation.

2. Out of total 141.62 crore persondays, the share of Scheduled Castes is 38.70 crore persondays (27.3%) and Scheduled Tribes is 41.36 crore persondays (29.2%) constituting a total of 80.06 crore persondays which comes to about 56.53%. The share of women beneficiaries is 60.39 crore persondays which is 42.60%.

3. During 2007-08, the Central Government had made a budget provision of Rs. 12,000 crores against which Rs. 12610.39 crores were released. Total available fund with States upto March, 2008 including Opening Balance was Rs. 19028.58 crore. The total expenditure reported till March 2008 is Rs. 15678.86 crore.

4. A total of 17.76 lakhs works have been undertaken, out of which 8.05 lakh works have been completed.

4.1 Under Water Conservation and Water Harvesting, 4,70,748 works were taken up which have created 1301.62 Lakhs Cu Metres of water storage capacity through Digging new tanks/ponds, percolation tanks and small check dams.

4.2 Under Flood Control and Protection, 49,324 works were taken up which created 7.50 Lakhs Km. of drainage in water logged areas through construction and repair of embankment.

4.3 A total of 89,359 Micro Irrigation Works were taken up for construction/renovation of 0.46 Lakhs Km. of canals.

4.4 A total of 2,61,299 works for provision of Irrigation facility to Land Owned by SC/ST, land reforms

and IAY beneficiaries were taken up by which 0.65 Lakhs hectares of land were provided which irrigation facilities.

4.5 Under Renovation of Traditional Water bodies, 1,32,479 works were taken up which created 1063.38 Lakhs Cu Metres of water storage capacity through desilting of tanks/ponds and traditional open wells.

4.6 Under Land Development. 2,86,793 works were taken up creating 10.85 Lakh hectares of land leveling and bunding.

4.7 Under Drought Proofing, 1, 25,349 works were taken up which has improved 6.14 Lakh hectares of land for afforestation and tree plantation.

4.8 Under Rural Connectivity 3,03,564 works were taken up for 4.00 Lakh Km. of road.

5 My Ministry is extremely conscious to ensure that eligible willing families get their entitlements and also proper utilization of resources. Accordingly we have taken following measures for ensuring strict vigilance, proper monitoring people's participation, accountability and transparency.

5.1 Payment of wages to workers is to be made through the bank/post office accounts. I have requested the Hon'ble Finance Minister to advise all the banks to take pro-active steps for ensuring that bank accounts of the NREGA beneficiaries are opened on priority. I have also requested the Chief Ministers of all the States to ensure that the bank/post office accounts are opened at the earliest and payments are routed through these accounts. So far, 1,45,06,012 accounts have been opened. States have been asked to ensure that the accounts of all NREGA workers are opened by 31st March, 2008.

5.2 Social audit is the compulsory provision for transparency in NREGA. So far, social audit has been completed in 77,000 Gram Panchayats in different States. All States have been urged to intensify the social audit mechanism.

5.3 Verification of muster rolls have been taken up in campaign mode. System has been developed to

ensure regular verification of the muster rolls. So far, more than 46 lakh muster rolls have been verified.

5.4 System have been developed by which 2% of NREGA works are inspected by the State level officials, 10% by district level officials and 100% by block level officials so as to ensure observance of rules and procedures. During the year 2007-08, 8.48 lakh works have been inspected.

5.5 Four meetings of the Central Employment Guarantee Council have been held on 27-9-2006, 30-3-2007, 20-9-2007 and 6-2-2008 and two meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on 16-8-2007 and 5-2-2008. In addition, State specific reviews of NREGA in five States have also been undertaken—Jharkhand (May, 07), Tamil Nadu (July, 07), Orissa (November, 07), Uttar Pradesh (January, 08) and Maharashtra (February, 08). Members of the Central Council also participated in these review meetings.

5.6 A comprehensive web-based Management Information System (MIS) has been put into position. The data pertaining to entitlement, fund flow, details of works and monthly progress reports (MPR) are available in public domain. Copies of MPRs are regularly being sent to all Hon'ble MPs in their e-mail account.

5.7 A comprehensive action has been taken up for awareness generation and people's participation through intensive IEC campaign and also through constitution of work-specific vigilance and monitoring committees followed by their training. So far, more than 9 lakhs PRI functionaries, 1.77 lakh Government functionaries and over 2.46 lakh vigilance and monitoring committee members have been imparted training.

My Ministry has also requested Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Directors of IITs and IIMs and various other reputed institutes for their participation in monitoring and evaluation of NREGA. I am happy to inform the House that overwhelming response has been received.

5.8 For sharing solutions and best practices, e-knowledge network have been put into position.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

5.9 Community based organizations have been involved in awareness generation, monitoring and social audit. It has been decided to introduce awards to be known as "Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar" to recognize the outstanding contribution by the civil society organisations for promoting effective implementation of NREGA.

6. As a pro-active measure for assessing the status of observance of rules and procedures, Ministry had requested CAG to undertake performance audit of NREGA in the initial phase. Based on which, performance audit has been undertaken by CAG in 68 districts spreading over 128 blocks and 513 Gram Panchayats. The findings of the performance audit have been duly acted upon. Necessary corrective measures have been taken and steps have been taken to ensure corrective measures while extending NREGA in Phase-III.

7. I am confident that with active involvement of all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament as Chairman/ Co-Chairman of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, the Ministry of Rural Development would be able to implement NREGA with utmost efficiency and as per the expectations of the people of the country.

12.03½ hrs.

(iv) Status Of Implementation of the Components of Bharat Nirman Relating to the Ministry of Rural Development*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement in regard to status of implementation of the components of Bharat Nirman relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Bharat Nirman is a time bound business plan of UPA Government for development of rural infrastructure over a period of 4 years i.e. 2005-06 to 2008-09 with a total estimated investment of Rs. 1,74,000 crore. Bharat Nirman comprises of six components out of which, three

components namely, Rural Roads, Rural Housing and Rural Water Supply are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development with an estimated investment of Rs. 85,000 crore. I wish to apprise this August House on the present status of the implementation of these three components of Bharat Nirman.

Rural Roads

During 2005-09, it was targeted to construct 1,46,185 km. of rural roads and to upgrade 1,94,130 km. of existing roads. So far, over 20,000 habitations have been connected and projects for connecting over 16,000 habitations are at different stages of construction. The projects are yet to be approved for about 23,000 habitations. So far, 55684 km. of new roads have been constructed and 78418 km. existing rural roads have been upgraded/renewed.

So far, Rs. 29681.82 crore have been utilized (upto Feb., 2008). I would like to highlight that after launching of Bharat Nirman, average annual expenditure for rural roads has gone above Rs. 6800 crore per annum as against Rs. 1,937 crore as average annual expenditure during the period 2000-2005. In 2007-08, Rs. 11,000 crore has been allocated and for 2008-09, Rs.14,530 crore is the budgetary outlay.

A Web-based on-line monitoring system (web address—www.omms.nic.in and www.pmgsyonline.nic.in) has been developed to facilitate timely monitoring of works under PMGSY.

Citizen information boards are displayed in local language at prominent locations indicating the cost and volume of materials used in each layer of the payment.

All State Governments have been advised to arrange joint inspection of on-going as well as completed works under PMGSY by Hon'ble MPs/Hon'ble MLAs/MLCs/functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions and implementing agencies.

The Government is committed to ensure excellent quality of construction. Systems have been put in place to ensure no compromise on quality front.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8756/08

Three-tier quality monitoring is fully functional. So far over 45,000 road works have been inspected by National Level Quality Monitors.

Rural Housing

Under Bharat Nirman, 60 lakh houses are envisaged to be built over the period of four years. A total of 51.77 lakh houses have already been taken up for construction out of which over 49 lakh houses have been completed. Over 21 lakh houses shall be taken up in 2008-09.

The Budgetary allocation has been substantially enhanced from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 5400 crore in 2008-09.

For ensuring transparency in selection of beneficiaries, system of preparation of permanent IAY waitlist has been introduced. So far, 14 States have completed preparation of permanent IAY waitlist and displayed it at conspicuous places in the panchayats. Lists are also available in printed booklet form and on website of districts. Efforts are underway for ensuring completion of preparation of IAY waitlist in other States.

I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that the unit cost of IAY houses sanctioned on or after 1st April, 2008 has been enhanced from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 35,000 in the plain areas and Rs. 27,500 to Rs. 38,500 in hilly areas. Similarly, for upgradation of an existing kutcha house, the financial assistance has been enhanced from Rs. 12500 to 15000 per unit. Further the Department of Financial Services have already advised the Reserve Bank of India to include IAY houses under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) and to lend upto Rs. 20,000 per unit at an interest rate of 4%.

Rural Drinking Water Supply

Under Bharat Nirman, 55,067 uncovered habitations, 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations were to be addressed. Against which, from 2005 till date, 31,633 un-covered habitations, 2,13,901 slipped-back habitations and 93,896 quality-affected habitations have been addressed.

During this period, 1,61,731 schools have also been provided with safe drinking water facility.

Under Bharat Nirman, financial allocation to rural drinking water sector has been enhanced substantially.

National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme has been launched in 2005-06, under which 5 persons in each village Panchayat are being trained for testing their own drinking water sources by using simple test kits provided. To tackle the problem of water quality, Government has started focused funding to States for tackling water contamination.

Online monitoring system has been introduced to strengthen monitoring mechanism and transparency.

We are also committed to enhance the sanitation facilities in rural areas. As per 2001 Census, 21.92% rural habitations had sanitation facilities which have now gone up to 53%. Government has planned to achieve the objective of Total Sanitation Coverage by the year 2012. During 2005-08, over 3 crore toilets for individual households have been constructed, besides, constructing 3.99 lakh school toilets. Nirmal Gram Puraskar has been launched from 2005. About 40 PRIs were given award in 2005, which went up to 770 PRIs in 2006 and to 4,959 PRIs in 2007. This year more than 30,000 applications have already been received which shows that this campaign is getting the desired momentum. The achievements of the country in this sector are being appreciated by various international agencies.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the Hon'ble Members for their continued motivation, support and active participation.

I also request the Hon'ble Members to monitor the implementation of above three components of Bharat Nirman as Chairpersons/Co-Chairpersons of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope Members would read them.

12.03½ hrs.

- (v) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 1st, 5th, 14th and 19th Reports of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively), pertaining to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 25 recommendations in its First Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. This Hon'ble House has already been informed on 10-9-2007 that out of the above 25 recommendations, 20 recommendations had already been implemented or no further action remains to be taken on them. In regard to the remaining 5 recommendations, Sir, with your permission I lay two Statements on the Table of the House which indicate the status as on 31-12-2007 on these recommendations. Statement No. 1 indicates the position regarding two of these recommendations which have since been implemented. Statement No. 11 lists the status of remaining three recommendations which are at various stages of implementation. The progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee is being closely monitored by my Ministry.

Sir, with your kind permission I further state that the Committee had made 32 recommendations in its 5th Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. This Hon'ble House has also been informed on 10.9.2007 that out of these, 31 recommendations had already been

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8757/08

implemented or no further action remained to be taken on them. The remaining one recommendation has since been implemented and Sir, with your permission, I lay Statement No.11 on the Table of the House. With this Sir, the entire recommendations contained in the 5th Report stand fulfilled or no further action remains to be taken.

12.04 hrs.

- (vi) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 176th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay a report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 176th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy.

12.05 hrs.

- (vii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 83rd Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on the Functioning of Special Economic Zones, pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry****

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8758/08.

**Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8759/08.

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, I beg to lay this Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on the functioning of Special Economic Zones in its 83rd Report had made 46 recommendations. The Action Taken Note on the Report was sent to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 18th October, 2007. The main observations/recommendations made by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce were on:

- SEZ Policy to be made people-friendly and for achieving export led industrial growth.
- Further SEZs to be notified only after public concerns are duly addressed
- Usage of land for SEZ purposes.
- Inclusion of a representative of Ministry of Agriculture on the Board of Approval.
- Fixing an upper limit to SEZ area and increasing the processing area to 50%.
- Extension of tax holiday to IT sector for a further period of 10 more years.
- Amendment to the Land Acquisition Act, 1984 and Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy.
- Governance issues relating to SEZs.
- Issues relating to social infrastructure such as housing and need for new townships for the benefit of employees, workers and other stakeholders.
- The need for creation of residential facilities for workers to avoid proliferation of shanty towns in the neighboring areas.
- Issues relating to fiscal concessions with a view to achieving the objectives of the Policy.
- Augmentation of Custom staff in SEZs and creation of posts for newly notified SEZs.
- Non-dilution of labour laws in SEZs.

Out of the 46 recommendations/observations, 27 have been accepted/partly accepted. Of these 13 recommendations on which action is required to be taken by the State Governments/other Departments, have been forwarded to them for action and are being duly followed up. 16 recommendations have not been accepted, but those recommendations on which action can be taken by the State Governments/other Departments have been duly forwarded for appropriate action. Three recommendations/observations have been taken due note of. An updated Action Taken Note on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 83rd Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on the functioning of Special Economic Zones is annexed.

12.07 hrs.

(viii) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 23rd Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel, pertaining to the Ministry of Coal***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 23rd Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin-Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

The 23rd Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 27-4-2007. Action taken statements on the recommendations /observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 08-08-2007.

There are 22 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations *

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8780/08

[Shri Santosh Bagrodia]

mainly pertain to the issues like Fund utilization, Formulation and Implementation of projects, Performance of Central Sector Schemes, Coal Production, Allotment of coal blocks, Coal Gasification and Safety Measures.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.08 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 5th May, 2008, will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006.
3. Consideration and passing of the Central Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

1. The cut in power supply should be withdrawn in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Orissa and many other States. Due to cut of 278 megawatt in Chhattisgarh the work of electrification has come to a standstill. The development work should not be stopped and 35 kilogram of rice is being given to people living below poverty line, the cut of Rs. 15 kgs. per person should not be made.
2. The prices of items of daily use have risen like the price of beans has risen to Rs. 80 per kg., rice: Rs. 15-30 kg., pulses: Rs. 40-45 per kg., kerosene: Rs. 16-20, petrol and diesel: Rs. 40 per litre and black-marketing by middle men should be checked. The prices should be stabilized.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to speak in detail, be brief.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices have risen sharply, therefore, I have to say it in detail.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called you earlier also, but you were not present. I respect you very much.

[English]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (i) That the construction Industry Development Council established by the Government of India, Planning Commission in 1996, is facing so many problems, so this Construction Industry be brought under one Ministry so that its problems should be solved.
- (ii) That there is no Central School in Nawashahar Doaba District of Punjab, so a Central school be opened in this district.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (1) Due to the unexpected and continued heavy summer rain, heavy loss has occurred in agriculture in Kerala. One team has visited from Centre to evaluate the Losses. But the required assistance is still awaiting. The assistance may be sanctioned at the earliest.
- (2) Some of the important National Highways like NH. 47, NH 213; NH 17 are in very bad condition without proper periodical repair and maintenance. It is required to repair before starting the forthcoming Monsoon. So the sufficient amount may be sanctioned for this at the earliest.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (1) The Railways need to speed up setting up of the railway line going through Jhalawar district. This line will assist the common man and will also help setting up of the Kalisindh power project. The railway line is life line of this region which will connect Ramganjmandi-via-Jhalawar through to Bhopal.
- (2) To ensure stoppage of the Shatabdi at Dholpur Junction. As the train has three stops in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh respectively while in Rajasthan there is no stoppage even though it passes through the State.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's list of Business:—

1. The MPLAD funds which are sanctioned for road, school building, handpumps, electrification (Transformer) schemes in Chail (Uttar Pradesh) and which are lying unutilised should be spent immediately.

2. The funds of "National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme" are not being spent in Chail (Uttar Pradesh) but are being misutilised openly, it should be checked immediately. The people should be provided employment on job cards as per rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this matter related to your parliamentary Constituency?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Yes. Sir.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. ONE RANK ONE PENSION: Keeping in view the peculiar service conditions of the Ex-Servicemen, who gave their best years of life in the service of motherland, a special Committee be appointed to reconsider it.
2. Considering geographical and peculiar climatic conditions, as also the geo-strategic border locations of the Northern States like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Utrakhand, there is a need to upgrade the television facilities in these hilly remote regions.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Permission should be granted to spend MPLAD funds partially as interim relief (like construction of plastic shed in transit camps and running food centers etc.) in flood affected areas.
- (2) Permission should be granted for giving aids to helpless, disabled children and medical treatment to very poor people from MPLAD funds.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:—

[Shri K. Francis George]

1. The setting up of more Pilot Training Institutes in view of the growing demand for pilots in the country due to the fast development in the Civil Aviation Sector and so the need to develop the 'Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aviation Technology' at Thiruvananthapuram as an International Pilot Training Institute.
2. The need to improve Waterways in the country in a mission mode to avoid congestion on the roads, to facilitate fast and easier passenger and bulk cargo movement and to boost the tourism industry and hence the need to take up the 53.50 km. Kochi Sea Port-Airport Waterway as a pilot project. Thanking you.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. speaker, Sir, the following two subjects may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Madhya Pradesh should not be deprived of full benefit of centrally sponsored schemes. Food supply, housing schemes, power generating plants, shortage in power supply, shortage in coal linkage of thermal power stations, rural electrification, construction of new railway lines and expansion of railway services, full allocation for National Employment Guarantee scheme, sports and infrastructure cost sharing scheme, security related expenditure empowering the district magistrate for right to citizenship in respect of Sindhi society, and direct air services for Haj should also be taken up.
2. The Union Government should give full assistance for development schemes of Madhya Pradesh and sanction emergent schemes immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava—not present. He seems to be the only hon. Member who informs the Speaker about his absence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sumitraj; I thank you for your agreeing to my request.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today federal system is running in a democratic way in the entire country. There are different parties in power in various states, but if the union Government adopts biased approach while dealing with state Governments, then, it is not right. Many a times discussions are held on relations between Centre and States. Presently, foodgrains are being distributed through PDS in Madhya Pradesh. There are more than 60 lakh BPL families in my State, but quota has been allocated for 41 lakh families, and for that also less allocations are being made. The Union Government is also accepting that 39 districts of the State are hit by drought. The Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded drought relief package of Rs. 1884 crore, it is being said that the proposal in this regard would be sent to the Cabinet Committee and decision will be taken afterwards. As a result, Madhya Pradesh is not getting relief. Further, the implementation of the projects of Madhya Pradesh, Amarkantak and Birsinhpur. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, they are trying to blame the Central Government for everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not appropriate.

[English]

Mr. Mistry, I have allowed her.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

[English]

When I am intervening, why are you saying?

[Translation]

Mistryji, this is not right. If you want an opportunity, I will give you.

(Interruptions) ...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is he speaking on behalf of the Government. *...(Interruptions)* Speaking like this is highly unbecoming of him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, if you want an opportunity, I will give you, but please listen to her.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want an opportunity, I will consider it. But, you allow her to speak. You are a very respected Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: She is mentioning an important issue; I am allowing her; I am asking her.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want it; I do not like it; I object to it; but please cooperate. If you want to say something, I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, BHEL, a Central unit had been assigned the work to implement the two projects by the year 2007, but the same has not been completed so far, Production is declining and coal shortage is also there. Now the

*Not recorded.

position is that we have been left with only four day's of coal stock in our power station located at Sharni. Our Chief Minister is on full day fast in Bhopal demanding ration for poor and redressed of their other problems. Not only Hon'ble Chief Minister, but also all the Ministers are on fast in entire state and in all the districts for 24 hrs. fast but neither any relief nor any cooperation is coming from the Central Government. I want the central Government to look into the matter immediately, and it should not make any discrimination only because the state is ruled by some other political party as the voters belonging to all political parties live in the States. Therefore, immediate attention is required to be paid in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, I will allow you to speak; I will call you.

This is not right. I will give you opportunity.

Shri Gaurishanker Chaturbhuj Bisen, Shrimati Neeta Pateriya, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh, Shri Chhattar Singh Darbar, Shri Chandrabhan Singh, Shri Virendra Kumar, Shri M.A.K. Swain, Shri Rakesh Singh Shri Ganesh Singh, Shri Ashok Argal, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria-all of them very strongly associate with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sumitraji has expressed her views in very clear terms.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, you are a very respected and able member, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, what has happened to you? You are a very cooperative member. You remove your coat, probably, it induces heat within.

[Mr. Speaker]

Sumitrajee has expressed her view in very clear terms.

[English]

She has cooperated. She has accepted my request. I also appreciate that so many other Members are feeling strongly about this. I have read out all their names and not one name is omitted. If anyone wants to put it further, merely it is the same thing. She has put it very, very ably.

[Translation]

Can you pressurize by saying the same thing repeatedly?

[English]

Do you want to say something?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Members, who want to associate themselves with this issue, may send the slips of their names.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anybody who wants to respond on behalf of the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention something. The Government of Madhya Pradesh came to power with the promise to provide the facilities like electricity, water and road to the people.

[English]

I wanted to ask them this question.

[Translation]

What is the quantum of electricity generated by the Madhya Pradesh Government.

[English]

They are inflating the number of BPL families. ... (Interruptions) It is their failure. It is their non-governance. You have put the people of Madhya Pradesh into hardship. You are answerable. You are responsible for that because you cannot face the elections. To abdicate your failure, you are alleging against the Central Government. You are simply alleging against the Central Government and nothing more. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more. Do not record anything now.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : May I say one thing? The hon. Member, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan has raised it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Only my statement is to be recorded.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan and many other hon. Members have raised an important issue. I am sure that will be looked into.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going in the record,

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me come to your notice. Now Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of things are being smuggled into our country from China via Nepal. A number of electrical goods have come into our country through smuggling in the recent past.

Sir, it has appeared as the headlines in the Indian newspapers that a number of contraband Chinese apples and Garlic are being smuggled from China through Nepal. In spite of custom, SSB and police check posts being in place on the border, to check smuggling, smuggled goods are freely flowing in the mandies of Gorakhpur. The agencies which are responsible for checking inflow of these goods, admit that a large quantity of Chinese apples and garlic are coming in India from China via Nepal. It is a very serious matter. Restricted apples and garlic are making way in to India through Badhni, Sonali, Thuthibari, Zavrul and Naugarh. The biggest mandi of Gorakhpur to sell these items in Maheva mandi. Apples and garlic are supplied from here to all the seven districts of Basti and Gorakhpur Division. Three months ago garlic was being sold at five thousand rupees per quintal. When the produce of farmers has since reached the market, garlic is being sold at Rs. 850-900 per quintal in the belt of Etawah and Mainpuri of Uttar Pradesh. It is a very strange way to torture the farmers. Officers deployed to check all this are not performing their duties. They are rather involved in it. Sir, I would like to request the Government of India through you to take note of it and take action against the officers responsible for this and it may be ensured for the future that smuggling of apples and garlic which is taking place should be checked once and for all.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, garlic farming is also done in Madhya Pradesh. Government should look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Garlic is produced in Etawah and Mainpuri belt of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening? Is there

any need of speaker or not? Would you decide yourself, what to speak and when to speak. You may do away with the speaker's post.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you full opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Speaker, Sir, archaeologists have made an interesting finding at the ancient city, Sisupalgarh in Orissa, which is more than 2,500 years old. They believe that it is older and bigger than even Athens in Greece. Situated on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sisupalgarh was once a thriving metropolis with population of over 25,000. That makes it even larger than the biggest city of classical Greece-Athens. Even though Sisupalgarh was discovered in the year 1948, it was not until three years ago that excavations started there. The Head Archaeologist of University of California, Dr. Monica L. Smith says "these cities from a very early time, about the third or fourth century BC, were very densely populated and urban in every sense of the word." A group of archaeologists believe that it is older and bigger than even Athens in Greece. A team of archaeologists from Deccan College in Pune, University of California and Archaeological Survey of India are manning the digs. What has been excavated is a very small area of the site and the area has been given a different perspective. Researchers have to depend largely on foreign funding for the excavation of this important site as the Government of India has not yet stepped in to help.

Our country 'Bharat' in general and Orissa, the erstwhile Kalinga, in particular, is having rich culture and heritage and we are proud of that. But it is sad that when the foreign countries are taking interest in our archaeologically important site and are investing funds, we are miser in utilizing the necessary funds in these discoveries.

Sir, through you, I would urge upon the Government

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

of India to take the necessary steps and invest funds for further discovery. They should take immediate steps for the purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the infrastructure like electricity plays a crucial role to convert a backward state into a developed one. Big state like Bihar, which was hitherto underdeveloped is now emerging as a developed State. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the grave problem of electricity there. The generation of electricity has been zero in Bihar during last 8-9 years. Barauni and Kanti were two thermal power stations but both are now closed. We are fully dependent on central power grid for electricity. Bihar has been allocated 1330 MW of electricity from central power grid while on the other hand Bihar is getting an average of 850 MW electricity.

In these circumstances, the Chief Minister of Bihar alongwith the members of all political parties visited Delhi and met the Power Minister and demanded for more allocation of electricity since the State is fully dependent on the Central grid. If it is not possible to enhance it, it should be ensured that the State should be provided with its share of at least the allocated quota.

I would like to say, through you, that on one hand the State is getting less quota of electricity, while on the other Bihar Government has given Kanti thermal Power to NTPC for its modernisation. No generation has taken place after a lapse of two and half years. I would like to appeal to the Government, through you, and to you also that you should issue direction to the Government in this regard. Bihar is a big State and the problem of electricity prevails there. To solve this problem, it should be ensured that the state gets its share of electricity as per allocation from Central grid. It is my request to you, sir.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): The question relating to electricity does not belong to any specific party....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All the Members from Bihar associate themselves with it.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, hon'ble Minister of Power is not present in the House. You should give direction to the Central Government in this regard; at least Government should make clear its stand and action being taken in the matter of Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that the Government takes due notice of it as all the hon. Members from a particular State are joining on an issue. It is because it is not a Party matter.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the most important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have spoken.

[English]

I have got a list with me, and I will try to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible. Therefore, I would request that please do not say 'Sir'.

[Translation]

I feel quite uneasy if I am repeatedly addressed as "Sir".

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, as per the report of high level committee of Planning Commission, the condition of health services is very pathetic and there is a shortage of doctors. There is a shortage of around

six lack doctors in the whole country and there are only sixty doctors per one lack population. The condition of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana is not good. It has been noticed that the number of aspirants appearing in the PMT examination is declining day by day and the trend to join engineering stream is increasing. In 2005, Javed Chowdhary Commission had been constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Javed Chowdhary, ex-health Secretary. This commission has submitted its report. It has recommended to raise the retirement age from 60 to 62 years for all officers of Central Government health Scheme. This service has four cadres, in which the age of three sub cadres has been raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

[English]

Cross-talk is going on in the House. He is raising a very important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, the sub-cadre-GDMO is a big cadre. There is an urgent need to raise the retirement age in this...* Whom so ever did not get any promotion for the last five years, at least, one promotion should be given to him. Recommendations of Javed Chowdhary Committee should be implemented immediately, otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, otherwise qualified Government doctors will be compelled to resign their posts and go to Private Hospitals.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow individual cases to be raised.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, it is not an

*Not recorded.

individual's case, this matter relates to six lac doctors. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please bring it to me. I want to see it. I would not allow individual cases on the floor of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Sir, we have been raising the problems of Bundelkhand for the last three years. In this regard we have also demanded special package from the Prime Minister three times for the last four-five years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell that you are demanding the Report.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Inter-ministerial central study group had visited Bundelkhand in this regard. Government had the report of study group, which has been submitted. We request the Government that the demand for the special economic package to the Bundelkhand may be provided immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav is also associating.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Sir, it is a very big problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, I would like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name has been given. It has been recorded.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: We have been writing continuously for two years for drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have daily allowed the issue related to Bundelkhand and I have allowed this issue today also.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: People are craving for drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Do not threaten the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: People are in trouble due to non-availability of water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We all are aware, that is why I have given time.

Shri Revti Raman Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: When we are not in a position to provide them potable water, then what far we have been elected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given opportunity to all to speak. Your name has been associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have been allowing this issue on everyday on this session. Nothing more.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: What for we have come here after being elected. I should be allowed to express my view point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given opportunity to all and you have been associated.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, potable water is not available there ...*(Interruptions)*. At least I should be given an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: If you raise your voice that does not mean your case is good. I have allowed this everyday because of the importance of the matter. Today also I have allowed it and one hon. Member has spoken.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to ask you to go out, if you disturb the House like this.

[Translation]

I have said that your issue is important, so I have also allowed you to speak. After this what I can do from here.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The very fact that I request Members to respond to their notices shows that I consider those matters important matters.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already expressed your views. Now would you repeat the same thing again and again.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. I have

*Not recorded.

not allowed you to speak. Without my permission you are speaking in a threatening gesture. I do not like it. You are not serving your people by shouting.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, please allow him for sometime.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Look at his behaviour! You are advising me what to do, look at his behaviour.

[Translation]

Making noise is of no use.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to enter into a controversy.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, we are not dictating you, you are our guardian.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you opportunity to speak. Rajnarayanji has already spoken on the same matter.

(Interruptions)...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not only today, I would not ever allow you to speak, if you go on like this.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Sir, kindly give some directions in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, you have come for the first time and you are talking like this. You should learn something. This is not an arena. Please sit down.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Sir package to the tune of Rs. 80 thousand crore should be given. ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The matter is being raised everyday and the Government had also responded. Even then I say that the feelings are very strong. I am sure the Government will look into it. What else can I say.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, there has been no reply from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shailendra Kumar, there is no rule either, to give reply to

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Everybody is trying to be too smart. I resent this. Mr. Chandra Pal Singh, this is not the way to behave in the House. You should know how to behave. Now I have started taking action. You will be one of them.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Do you know there is a Rule Book?

[Translation]

Have you ever read the Rule Book?

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has uttered some words for the Chair by mistake, these should be removed from the proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. They do not know anything, they neither bother to listen nor read anything.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, the N.D.A. was in power during 13th Lok Sabha. They had constituted the Ministry of Disinvestment and they took measures to wind up all the public sector factories. This Government is also following their foot-steps. There is Hindustan Cable Factory in Naini, Allahabad and also in West Bengal and Hyderabad. The Government, instead of running those factories is neglecting them. Several months have elapsed, the factory workers are on the verge of starvation, they are neither being given salary nor any facility. This issue has been raised many a time in Lok Sabha. This issue has been addressed to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi also, Lalu Yadavji is also sitting here. Rajiv Gandhiji had laid the foundation stone of this factory. This company manufactures optical fibre which is in great demand in BSNL, MTNL and even AIRTEL. It should be merged with BSNL. There are only 250 employees. Sir, I request you direct the Government to look into this matter and run the factory and arrange for the disbursal of salaries.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my parliamentary constituency where there is an acute crisis of water. The water level in the rural areas and the urban areas has depleted, the problem has further compounded with the excruciating heat resulting in unavailability of water. Through you, I would urge the hon. Minister to make arrangements for water in the rural and urban areas so as to prevent the agitation by the people which has become a common feature. The hon. Minister should take concrete measures to make arrangement for water in rural and urban areas immediately. *...(Interruptions)*
The hon. Minister of Rural Development is sitting here. He should at least make arrangement for hand pumps

here through the hon. Members of Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem. I would request the leader of your Party to see what his Chief Whip is doing.

[Translation]

You are the Chief Whip. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the State of Chhattisgarh. Arpa Bhisajhal Project has been pending in Bilaspur District of Chhattisgarh for the last ten years. As per fresh estimates, which has since been received, one lakh farmers having several lakh acres of land are likely to be benefited from this project. This is the first project of Chhattisgarh. The Government of Chhattisgarh needs to pay attention to it. It is a new Government, it has been there for the last four years. So, the Union Government is requested to grant approval to the Arpa Bhisajhal Project which is under consideration here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : So many State matters are being raised forcibly.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM (Jamnagar): Sir, there is a threat to country's security. I would like to make some request in regard to Jamnagar district and Defence. Jamnagar airport is Centre for providing training to Airforce. It is near Pakistan, so providing relaxation could be detrimental to our security. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear as to what the hon. Member is saying.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: The then Deputy Secretary to Government of India, Dr. Parwinder Kaur invoking section 7 and 3 of the Defence Act 1903, had on 22 May 2001, issued orders to restrict the construction of a building or structure or planting trees on the land upto 900 metres of the upper limit of airports and establishments of the Indian Air Force. However, the District Magistrate, Jamnagar through an order in 2008 gave relaxation for the construction in certain areas of the Indian Air Force and its establishments upto 100 metres and 300 metres. On what basis this relaxation has been given and what is the reason for publishing this order after so many years?

It is requested that instructions should be issued to the Gujarat Government to implement the order issued originally, otherwise, it will be a grave threat to the country's security.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What I said earlier is getting proved - this is really a 'torture hour'.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): No, Sir. It is not a 'torture hour'.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is not so, if we do not raise our issues here where else we would raise them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, but it should be regulated.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is present here, I would like to request him that Mohan Committee was constituted to provide salaries and benefits to the PSU's employees from 1-1-97. There are four PSUs under Ministry to Civil Aviation namely Food Authority of India, Pawan Hans, Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited. They should have been given these benefits from 1-1-97. It is a matter of regret that those Indian Airlines employees who have retired have not been

given these benefits as yet whereas they have constantly been requesting the Minister for the same.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister to redress this discrepancy; and except for the Indian Airlines employees those ones who have retired have submitted their memoranda several times. Therefore, I want that you should take initiatives so that a proper decision could be taken at the earliest on priority basis....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that, and I will maintain it—those who disturb me will not get a chance. And you are disturbing me since the last time.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and say that the medical officer appointed under National Rural Health Mission is given a consolidated salary of Rs. 8000 per month. I have read such news today in some newspaper of Rajasthan. This morning the hon'ble Minister said that the people are migrating from public sector to private sector. If a doctor get salary of Rs. eight thousand while a Pharmacist is getting the salary of Rs. 12 thousand, then, nobody would prefer to work. I therefore, would request the hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to instruct the state Governments to provide better salary structure to the doctors, particularly to those ones who are working in villages under National Rural Health Mission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Get higher salary, but do not do work.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma—Not present.

Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari—Not present.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Till now 20 hon'ble Members have already spoken, even then no one is happy, we had decided in all party leader's meeting that [*English*] Only five matters will be taken up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that this time there will be shortage of foodgrains in the country. This thing was known to all, but despite the shortage of water, power, fertilizer, seeds, labourers etc. the farmers of Punjab, by putting their hard labour, have contributed enough foodgrains in central pool. However, they did not get the price of the foodgrains which they deserved. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is about the drug addiction. You have raised a very good and important issue.

[*English*]

Need to check drug addiction among the youth in the country.

[*Translation*]

You, speak on it.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this issue, today the tendency of drug addiction is growing among the youth of the country. I have a newspaper in which it has been written it has been written that some individuals arriving from other countries including Nigeria are pushing men and women and even our children towards drug addiction. Among them, most of the people are those who are working in BPOs because they do overwork. They are more inclined towards drug addiction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government that if our youth today spoil their prime time in drug addiction, we cannot imagine a good society in the times to come. Addiction is a very bad habit. The

Government is not taking it so much seriously as they should have taken it. Many organizations are working for it, but the work is not being done in the manner as it should have been done by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the Government to combat this evil treating it as a challenge for the country. I extend my thanks to you for giving me opportunity.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, various states of the country including Bihar have been affected with the scourage of devastating flood. About 17 districts of North-Bihar were devastated during the last years' flood in 2004 and 2007. Rivers washed away many villages by breaking embankments at several places in the year 2007. These embankments are lying in broken condition even today. Those who survived in last year's flood are now very scared. This year only one and half months are left to the onset of rainy season. Though you, I would like to know from the Government of India whether the Government have any plan on the basis of which some substantial steps could be taken to repair and strengthen various cracked embankments in Bihar by launching a comprehensive campaign in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pradhan, I may tell you that 14 hon. Members from this side have been called. Two other hon. Members were also called from this side but they were absent. Therefore, do not say, 'this side'.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, I had an important issue to raise.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has an important issue to raise.

Is everybody else's issue unimportant and only your issue is important?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, that was not my intention. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not intend to debate.

Shri P. Karunakaran—Not present.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is the 17th hon. Member who has been called.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year there was very low rainfall in most parts of Rajasthan. Due to the drought situation, famine and scanty rainfall in the state for the last many years rivers, ponds, wells and all other such sources have dried up. All the handpumps are lying nonfunctional due to sharp decline in water level over there. Although, the State Government with its limited resources is making efforts to provide potable water through the tankers in water-scarce rural areas yet most of the parts are facing acute shortage of drinking water. This crisis may worsen in days to come. I, therefore, request the Government of India to provide a special economic package to the Government of Rajasthan at the earliest. to overcome this drinking water crisis.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Within a few days a major decision in respect of the jute packaging is going to be taken for the jute year 2008-09. As you know, Sir, since 1987 when the Act regarding the mandatory jute packaging had come into operation, the jute industry has been affected seriously because of the dilution in the provisions of the Act. In respect of cement and fertilizers, it has been totally diluted. The present arrangement is that hundred per cent reservation is there for the jute packaging in respect of foodgrains and sugar. As you know, Sir, more than 2.5 lakh of jute workers and 440 lakh of jute growers are dependent on this Packaging Order itself. I would urge upon the Government that the present arrangement of hundred per cent reservation of jute packaging in respect of foodgrains and sugar be allowed to continue in the interest of jute industry in general.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee is associating with it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I would also like to associate with it.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

Now, I want the blessings of Yogi Ji.

[Translation]

I want to conclude with the blessing of Yogi Aditya Nath you, speak on the issue of Re-organisation.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important issue. Due to regional economic imbalances all kinds of social and economic disparities are prevailing in various parts of the country. There is resentment in various regions of the country. People are also dying of hunger due to drought and natural calamities in many parts of the country. A demand for smaller states is gaining ground in Uttar Pradesh as well as in various other parts of the country. In this connection there is a very important issue before the Union Government that relates to Uttar Pradesh. Keeping such a demand in view the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also makes her statement regarding carving out four new states of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bundelkhand, Western Uttar Pradesh and the Central Uttar Pradesh out of Uttar Pradesh and even the Prime Minister while visiting Varanasi had made such a statement.

A demand for creation of separate state of Telangana is also being raised in Andhra Pradesh. Creation of Vidarbha state is also a very long standing demand in Maharashtra. In this regard both the union and the state Government are throwing dust into people's eyes only for diverting the attention of the common people from their main issues.

Through you, I would like to know from the Government of India that if both the Union Government and the State Government support the creation of smaller states like Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand etc. then, why they are making political statements and counter statements against each other and what is objection in creation of Eastern Uttar

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

Pradesh and Bundelkhand? For this State Reorganisation Commission should be constituted at the earliest and if there is a need to reorganize these states, a road map should be formulated very soon for the creation of these separate new states so that the economic and social development could be made over there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I now come to item No. 25. Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it. The rest will be taken up at the end of the day.

Now, coming to item No. 25, Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

12.56 hrs.

MOTION RE : EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL POSITION RELATING TO OFFICE OF PROFIT

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do extend upto last day of the Monsoon Session, 2008 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend upto last day of the Monsoon Session, 2008 the time for presentation

of the Report of the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The next item is item No. 26 which is regarding National Jute Board Bill, 2006. But I have a request from the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation that item No. 27 may be taken up first. I think there is a general agreement on it. We shall take it up as the first item after the lunch recess. But since there is some more time for lunch recess, the hon. Minister may speak now.

12.57 hrs.

CARRIAGE BY AIR (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2007

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

As you are all aware, during the last decade, there have been significant developments in the civil aviation sector bringing India to the core of the international civil aviation scenario. We have now in fact become a trend setter due to our size and impressive growth rates. To further place India on the ranks of global leaders, I propose this legislation which will facilitate higher compensation and prevent Indian passengers from discrimination which they are facing right now.

On the proposal for the amendment of the Act, I would like to mention that there is an International Legal Regime governing the liability of air carriers for injury or death of passengers or destruction, loss or damage of baggage or cargo and losses caused by delay in

international carriage of passengers, baggage and cargo. This Regime is set out in a number of international instruments. However, India has so far ratified only two instruments, namely, the Warsaw Convention, 1929 and the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol, 1955 and the same has been given effect to in the Carriage by Air Act, 1972.

Based on these changes, we have been guided by the International Civil Aviation Organisation which passed the Montreal Convention, 1999 which was adopted for the unification of certain rules for international carriage by air which aims to achieve the dual purpose of modernizing as well as consolidating the various instruments comprising the Warsaw Convention. This Montreal Convention has already been ratified by 86 countries out of which 25 countries have direct air links with India. I can name the countries but I will just give the number.

13.00 hrs.

In brief, the Convention seeks to increase the compensation levels for international passengers in the event of death or body injury or damage and delay to the passengers' baggage and cargo. The current compensation which is there now is very low because it is based on 1955 levels. There is an aim to ratify that also. It also aims to bring Indian carriers and Indian passengers mainly on par with what compensation is paid to them by the international carriers in countries outside of India where the compensation levels in the event of either death or loss of baggage or cargo is much higher. Though we are a signatory to the International Civil Aviation Organisation Charter, the compensation levels to an Indian passenger, even if he is in overseas, are much less than what a foreigner would get paid if there is any loss of either life or injury or whatever be the issues. Therefore, it is basically to bring parity for an Indian passenger or an Indian carrier in line with the International Convention.

So, this Bill is basically to amend certain provisions of the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 and bring it on line the Montreal Convention 1999.

I would urge that the Bill be discussed by the

House and I would request the hon. House to take up the Bill for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Minister, after lunch recess, we will start with your predecessor, Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**CARRIAGE BY AIR (AMENDMENT)
BILL—contd.**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain to speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Carriage By Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007. I know that the hon'ble Minister is a very good and an old friend of mine. He is doing a very good job. While praising him, we also appreciate good job done by him. He is counted among the few good Ministers of this Government. He is very good, but the airports are not functioning properly. We have a lot of expectations from him. Since, we have a lot of expectations from him, therefore, we cannot praise the lot of works done by him. He has brought the Carriage

[Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain]

By Air (Amendment) Bill. He has expressed concern over baggage it. The hon'ble Minister is very concerned, in case of loss of baggage. Similarly, he is also concerned about insurance in case of death of an individual. The Government is very concerned about all this. This Bill should have been brought long ago. Now he has brought it, but it is better late than never and he has brought it in a hurry. Otherwise, this Government is not having any work. Till yesterday, it was not known that this Bill is to be brought. Suddenly this Bill comes and the Government itself is not aware that it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): You have also been the Minister of this Department. What had you done? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: What we did that. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not so. Today, I definitely have requested to take this Bill at number one, instead of number two, but it would not be appropriate to say that earlier this Bill was not in list. Last week, the Business Advisory Committee had accepted it.*(Interruptions)*. This Bill had been put in Advance List of Business of this session.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That list has been circulated to them.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision on this bill had been taken only yesterday, therefore, I am saying it.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): You do not have any issue to raise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mistryji is the whip of ruling party and

I have got personal relations with him. ...*(Interruptions)*
I am in friendly terms with him. ...*(Interruptions)* I want that in view of interest of the House, he should be given the portfolio of Minister, so that the House may function smoothly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Do not worry about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was going through my old speeches, my speech never gets completed without interruptions by Mistryji. He loves me very much. ...*(Interruptions)*

I just said that the hon'ble Minister is expressing concern that the Government will pay compensation in case of loss of baggage by an individual. The Government is concerned about insurance in case of death of an individual. The Indians should also get compensation as per the International laws. Today, the biggest problem is that time is very precious. Time is not less precious than the baggage. But the hon'ble Minister must see that today the Government is concerned about loss of baggage and injury to body, but the Government is not concerned about loss of time. Today, the planes over around Delhi and Mumbai airports for hours, the planes take a round of distance more than the distance between Delhi and Lucknow. Hon'ble Minister is orchestrating a very good view of Delhi. He has given permission to many airlines due to which the number of air travellers has increased. In year 2004, when our Government was in power, the number of flights was 55 thousand. Today, the number of flights has risen to more than one lakh. The number of air travellers was 45 lakh in the year 2004-05, which has now increased to 96 lakh. The number of passengers has increased manifold, it is not because the Government are providing some assistance or any kind of concession. The main reason is that GDP has increased, low cost airlines have emerged, therefore, people just buy the ticket and board the plane. The Government are constructing new airports. If we take into account the Delhi Airport keeping in view rush of 1 crore 30 lakh passengers a new airport should be constructed, we hope that it would be constructed soon and the hon'ble Minister Shri Praful Patel who had laid

foundation of it, would also inaugurate it. We had started the construction of Bangalore and Hyderabad airports and I am happy that my friend Shri Praful Patelji has inaugurated it. At that time, he cooperated a lot with us and he had always extended his cooperation, that is why, I was very happy when he inaugurated that airport. He has just made a statement that Bangalore Airport is also being inaugurated some time in May. At present, election process is on over there, when the new Government would be formed after election, he will go there to inaugurate the Bangalore Airport. Bangalore and Hyderabad airports have been constructed as per the need of passengers at that time. But today, the number of passengers has increased ten times. I would like to request you to construct new airports having the capacity of catering to the need of passengers. The Government are talking of closing the old airports alongwith the construction of new airports in Bangalore and Hyderabad. It is being said that the infrastructure worth crores of rupees is then; they are going to close it. We want that the name of hon'ble Minister should be written in the list of Ministers who have constructed new airports, but not in list of Ministers who have closed down the old airports. Therefore, I am personally concerned about it.

These days, the consumption of air turbine fuel has increased. The reason behind it is that the large number of planes are hovering in sky before landing. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that some measure should be taken in this regard and some policy should be formulated for airports. Earlier, it was visualised that airport should be constructed within the range of 75 kilometres or 150 kilometres in Delhi. Today, airports are being constructed, but they are required in large number. We had started construction of airport in Amritsar. Today, there is a lot of air traffic at that airport. The problems are going to emerge there also. He has got lot of kudos, as all hon'ble Members here ask, when the airport would be constructed in their area, he should consider that matter also. I have also been a Minister of Civil Aviation and whenever Prafulji came to me with any issue, I considered it sympathetically. There is an airport in Patna. We had upgraded it by acquiring land in Dhobighat. Last time, when I was going to Patna,

the Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Shrimati Kanti Singh was also travelling in the same plane and she was sitting beside me. That flight was very important because the two hon'ble Ministers were travelling in it, but the people were nervous at the time of landing. I was sure that there will be no problem in landing, but the other people were very nervous because the runway was very short. There are 9 crore people living in Bihar for whom you have provided only one airport in Patna and that, too, too, has got a small runway. We had got an airport constructed in Gaya. I would like to request you to visit there once at least and inaugurate the airport so that the air traffic could be started over there because it is linked with the Buddhist circuit. The Minister of Tourism must remember that Bihar can make progress only through tourism, and the inauguration of Gaya airport is not being done. Our Minister is very familiar with the people of Bihar. We are ready to welcome his arrival in Bihar, but he is not visiting there. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to visit there and inaugurate that airport.

In his reply to a question of Ram Kripal Yadavji, he had given assurance to set up an airport in Bhagalpur. I am thankful to him for that. In this regard, he has thrice sent team there. I would request him to set up an airport in Bhagalpur urgently as it is also my parliamentary constituency. He got an airport constructed at Gondiya in his area and provided even the night landing facility there. The whole country knows that he and I are friends. So, he should also pay some attention to Bhagalpur to get an airport constructed over there and by commissioning air services from there to Gondiya.

I am saying all this in regard to the Bill which has been presented here, though I know that it is not directly related to the Bill. However, having got a platform to speak, I am saying all this. I have also been a Minister of Civil Aviation. He may take advantage of my experience and I am ready for this. He may contact his officials and I am ready to cooperate by sharing my information with him. Members from this side hold a good opinion about him. He should do work impartially and we will continue to cooperate with him.

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

I would request him once again to pay attention towards the two airports I have mentioned about. Today, there is too much wastage of fuel because of traffic congestion in the country. You will be surprised to know that we have wasted fuel of Rs. 1460 crore in a year. It was all because of delay in getting permission for landing on time due to traffic congestion and the plants which continue to fly around in air. This was the reason for the wastage of fuel worth about Rs. 1460 crore in a year. No doubt, a number of airports can be constructed with this handsome amount.

You are constructing airport in Delhi. This one is being constructed keeping in view the need of one crore and thirty lakh people, whereas about two crore air passengers have been recorded at this time. When once I went to airport, I saw that there was rush much more than that at the railway stations. There were also some Members accompanying me. Among them one was Shri N.K. Singhji, a Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha and another one was Shri Rameshwar Oraonji, a Union Minister. There was no room even for them to seat. We kept on talking and to pass time stood there for about an hour. Then the bus came. I saw that there was no arrangement over there. Such things happen when there is lack of infrastructure. It is not a proper time to level allegation and counter allegation about what we did and they did. He is planning a long time programme, but, at the same time, he should formulate even short-term plan. He said that the proposed airport will be constructed by the time Commonwealth Games are held i.e. by the year 2010. I would like to say that there will be as much rush even at that time as there is today. So, it also needs to be paid attention.

The hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation has presented Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill in the House which is meant for luggage. You are worrying about luggage and talking of insurance. But, at the same time, you should keep in view the time factor as well, because any Bill cannot be brought for time. Time is most powerful and it is the biggest capital as well. So, it should also be kept in mind. While boosting your morale, I support this Bill once again and hope that through this there will be

facilities for the passengers. Some more Members will speak and put their views on this Bill. So, I do not want to say more.

Metro Rail is running in Delhi and it is also being extended. It has come to my notice that one express Metro Rail Service will be provided from Lalaji's station to Prafuji's airport. However, there is no increase in air facility. Today population has registered a record increase. The population of Greater Noida is more or less equal to that of Delhi. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have a proposal for the construction of an airport in Greater Noida. Are you considering about this proposal? Do the Government propose to construct an airport in Greater Noida, the constituency of our colleague hon'ble Ashok Pradhanji, on the lines of the US where there can be two airport even in one city? I expect it from you and I extend my thanks to you for bringing this Bill. You have brought this Bill late, but it is better late than never. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was saying that there were lots of business to be carried out. I, too, know that there is a lot of business. If there is much business, the Government should do a lot of work. Today, you are getting these discussions in a haste. I hope that the people will be benefited after this Bill is passed.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what happened to the GOM constituted for the construction of an airport in Greater Noida?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your matter has been covered in it.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007. This is the Bill to further amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972. On 12-10-1929, the Warsaw Convention was signed to give effect for the unification of certain laws relating to International Carriage by Air. Then, it was amended as per the Hague Protocol in 1955. Based on the amended Convention, the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 was passed and implemented on 19-12-1972 as Act 69 of 1972. This

Act elaborately dealt with the liability of the Carrier under Chapter III in Section 17 to 30. It provides for compensation to the victims and also damages for the goods lost in transit.

The present Bill is based on the Montreal Convention signed on 28-5-1999. Actually, 'Montreal Convention' means the Convention for the unification of certain rules for international carriage by air signed at Montreal on 28th May, 1999. This Bill seeks to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 that governs the rules for international carriage by air. The present Bill proposes to update India's legal regime by ratifying the Montreal Convention. Already 78 countries have ratified and enforced this Convention.

If we go back to the history of the civil aviation industry in this world, it begins on 21-11-1783 when a hot air balloon designed by the MONTGOLFIER Brothers. This was the birth date of this industry and now it is aged 224 years old. The balloon flight was continued throughout the 19th Century even for longer and longer distances and even now continuing. Several airships were built during 1800.

The first aircraft was made by the Brazilian aviation pioneer Alberto Santos Dumont. In 1903, the Wright Brothers flew the first successful powered heavier-than-air flight. After some years, the aircraft were used to carry people. The first successful passenger aircraft was manufactured by the German ZEPPELIN company in August, 1929.

In India, it was a historic day when Tata's air service was inaugurated through a historic flight from Karachi on 15-10-1932. First, it was from Karachi to Bombay and later it was extended to Madras. Air International was established in March, 1948. During the 1950s, the civil jets grew and Boeing 707 was used throughout the world.

Now, in our country, the competition is between airlines and the Railways. Within a few years, due to the fare reduction, domestic traffic has grown by 24.2 per cent and international traffic by 18 per cent. Private airlines are accounting for 68.9 per cent of domestic

traffic. The passenger traffic in the domestic airports is 59.54 million.

Certain airports are totally dominated by private airlines like Coimbatore. I want to submit that Coimbatore is the Manchester of South India and Tirupur is having nearly 5,000 hosiery units. The Government of India is getting Rs.11,000 crore per year by way of exports. But it is unfortunate that all the Indian flights going to Coimbatore are being de-linked. Now, only private airlines are operating in Coimbatore. I would humbly request the hon. Minister to restore the Indian flights to Coimbatore as this Bill pertains to international airlines.

The number of pilot licences has multiplied by three times. In April 2005, it was 300 and in April 2006, the number rose to 1,045 and now it is more than that. There are two courses. After finishing BE our young boys join the pilot training course or after finishing Plus Two examination, they join the pilot training course. For example, the Scandinavian Academy in the US is admitting those students who have passed out Twelfth Class. Here, we are having a number of academies, they are admitting the students but are charging very heavily. So, this has to be taken seriously by the Ministry.

In India, it is expected that in the year 2010, new urban middle class passengers will be 100 million air travellers.

Sir, I want to mention certain facts about the international civil aviation since this amendment pertains to rules with regard to international passengers. It was called Chicago Convention and it was established in the year 1944. It states that the signatories should collectively work to harmonize and standardise the use of airspace for safety, efficiency and regularity of air transport.

The present Bill introduces a two-tiered compensation regime for death or injury to passengers. If the accident is the fault of the carrier, then it has unlimited liability otherwise it is limited to Rs. 1 lakh only. Under Chapter III, liability of the carrier and extent of

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

compensation for damages are discussed under clause 17 to clause 30. These are welcome provisions. The time limit to award compensation is fixed as six months under clause 26(6).

The Montreal Convention allows the victims or their family members to choose the place to file litigation either at their usual area of residence or where the accident occurred.

The present Bill paves way to get advance payment by injured victims or deceased family from carrier-company for urgent and immediate need. The time limit is explained in clause 31(2) for filing the complaint. As per Section 31(2), in the case of damage, a person is entitled to make a complaint to the carrier company forthwith after the discovery of the damage or within seven days from the date of receipt of baggage and in the case of cargo it is 14 days. The maximum period is 21 days. So, this time limit is correct.

Moreover, the present Bill changes the system for compensation for the lost or damaged baggage. Under the Warsaw Convention, it was weight-based system. The Montreal Convention changed it to the maximum of 1,000 Special Drawing Rights (SDR) equal to 63,000 lakhs. Presently, it is only 5 lakhs. The proposal of enhancing this is another welcome measure taken by this Bill.

The compensation notified in the 1972 Act for domestic flights is lesser than international ones. This also has to be enhanced considerably.

Since Montreal Convention covers any journey where the origin and destination are in signatory country, hence ratification of the Convention is essential. Based on this, this is suitably amended.

Based on the Convention, the Bill was drafted and a number of suggestions given by the Standing Committee were suitably considered.

Finally, I am congratulating and appreciating the hon. Minister, Shri Praful Patel, for developing the civil

aviation industry and for upgradation of airports at the international level, particularly, Madurai, Tiruchy and Coimbatore Airports.

With these words, I am concluding my speech and supporting the Bill.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing about Sanuwal of Ludhiana? When is it likely to be made operational? It is very important.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I deem it as a great pleasure and honour conferred on me to be called upon to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Of course, it is a most welcomed piece of legislation and its timely arrival in the Parliament is also welcomed in the light of the sincere commitment of the UPA Government at the Centre for taking care of the people in each and every point of human life.

At the outset, I take this opportunity to express my limitless gratitude to our most respected leader and DMK Party's Supremo, Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi. With his beloved son, young and energetic Local Body Administration Minister M.K. Stalin, he is making Tamil Nadu a 'golden land' in India. Recently he welcomed our hon. Civil Aviation Minister to the southern part of Tamil Nadu, that is Madurai, for the function to expand Madurai Airport. That was a very welcomed step for the southern part of Tamil Nadu.

Of course, we had brought a Green Revolution in the country earlier. We had a White Revolution in our nation through dairying. And a road revolution has been made because of hon. T.R. Baalu, Road Transport and Highways Minister at the Centre. Now, our hon. Civil Aviation Minister has made an air revolution by connecting all parts of our country by beautiful airlines. We should congratulate our hon. Aviation Minister for this.

My next point is this. A few amendments have been made in the Bill. The most welcomed aspect is to bring uniformity in the application of liability regime ending the multiplicity of international instruments. I would request our hon. Minister to increase the compensation amount for death or injury caused to the people. Including the place of domicile of the passenger is the most welcomed thing. Also, we should appreciate our Minister for putting an advance payment in the case of death and bodily injured persons. Recognition of use of electronic documents such as e-ticket is the most welcomed thing of this Amendment Bill.

In all respects, on behalf of the DMK Party, I would like to congratulate our Civil Aviation Minister for all the efforts he is making to connect all the parts of India.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. While supporting the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister to a few points which are very much vital. It is because—it is our experience—when the Government is seriously thinking of entertaining the International Montreal Convention and upgrading our standard to the international level, we are facing certain problems.

We are sending cargoes of vegetables to different countries through Dum Dum Airport. So far as we know, Praful Patelji, you know about Kolkata; you were born and brought up in Kolkata. The problem is this. We are sending our items, specially the perishable items in Dum Dum Airport; every day we are sending cargoes. If it is sent by Emirates flight, it is better because they are having a very good flight; the Dubai-London they are flying every day. Earlier, they were flying five days; now they have extended it to seven days.

So, they are getting cargoes. But while we are sending it by the Indian Airlines, all of a sudden the Indian Airlines declares that due to certain mechanical fault or something, the flight is cancelled. The problem is that the exporters, who are sending the consignment, are reaching the airport with the consignment. They have entered the airport. While they are coming out, they have to fulfil a lot of formalities. Now, that particular consign-

ment is considered as imported item. So, if the exporter is interested to sell it in the local market, he cannot dispose it off. So, he is losing because of these things. He is losing his international commitment. He is not in a position to sell his product in the local market, and he is paying Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 8,000 per consignment only to bring out the consignment, which was supposed to be delivered but could not be delivered because of the fault of the Airlines authority. So, they have to pay Rs.7,000 to Rs.8,000. We do not find any reason why this is being charged.

Now, I am telling you about our experience. In June, 2007, we, four MPs, with our family, travelled to New York. We were travelling by British Airways to London. After reaching London, we were having our connecting flight to New York. Our entire baggage was missed. During this one year time, we have not yet been compensated. We have lodged our claim but we do not know for what reason it has not been entertained. So, there should be some system. For any flight whether it is Indian or any other international flight, while loading the cargo, the management on the airport should take care to load the baggage to the respective airways through the air cab so that the passenger gets the baggage as soon as he reaches his destination. So, this matter should be looked into.

While we are considering international standard, I must say that there was one direct flight from Dum Dum Airport to Amsterdam. You know that Amsterdam is the biggest buyer of flowers. They are importing flowers from all over the world. Again, they are exporting also. We used to supply flowers availing the direct flight. But this KLM flight has been stopped. We thought that it would be reintroduced. But I do not know the decision of the Ministry or the hon. Minister. Passengers are also there. Our earnest request would be to re-introduce that flight.

Now, our hon. Minister must be knowing that APEDA has taken the initiative to have one cold storage in the Dum Dum Airport so that the exporters can use the cold storage for keeping the perishable items, and they can send the cargoes to different destinations. I would request the hon. Minister to take up the issue

[Shri Sudhangshu Seal]

with the Commerce Minister and the APEDA so that the project is completed, and we can have the benefit of this cold storage facility.

Lastly, I would tell the hon. Minister that while we are considering the international norms, time is the factor. As the initiator told correctly, in every flight, whether it is domestic flight or international flight, it has become a regular feature that all flights of the Indian Airlines or Air India are not running on scheduled time. We have seen this on different occasions, while sitting in the airport. Firstly, we are not being informed that the flight will be delayed. Sometimes, they inform us that the flight will be delayed. Sometimes, on reaching the airport we find that the Indian Airlines flight is delayed. Side by side, the private airlines are flying their flights as per their schedules. We have noticed, sitting in the airport, most of the passengers are cancelling the IC flights and they are availing the tickets of private airlines. I tell you that somebody in your administration might be interested to encourage the private airlines to grow up.

That way, they are doing all these things knowingly. Otherwise, how has it become a regular feature? If it is there for one day or two days, it is acceptable, but it has become a regular feature. Even today, there was a flight from Delhi to Kolkata at 5 o'clock. In the morning itself, they have announced that it will fly at 5.45 a.m. Why? It has become a regular feature. So, I urge upon the Government, especially our hon. Minister for Civil Aviation, to please look into the matter. I believe, this Bill will definitely help us to render good service to our passengers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007. It provides that if any accident takes place during the Air journey and people die or luggage is misplaced or damaged compensation shall be paid as per international norms. This is the main part of the

Bill. I rise to support this Bill. This Bill especially protects the passengers, their luggage and interests. In this Bill provision has been made to enhance the amount of compensation for the passengers traveling by Air and a criteria has been fixed for providing compensation by the Gold Franks in the event of death of the passengers in the accident and an amount upto twenty thousand US dollars has been fixed in this regard. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that passengers have to face a lot of problems when international flights get delayed. In this regard a special attention has to be paid.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards a specific issue. I remember, an issue had been raised in this House during zero hour. Those passengers who go on Haz Yatra and when they bring some items from there, especially Holy water 'Zamzam' they have to face a lot of problems because they are not allowed to bring the holy water with which their religious sentiments are attached. Besides, a large number of their belongings are kept back causing them heavy losses; they don't even get compensation for it and their luggage gets delayed. I understand that the Minister should pay special attention to this specific matter.

Sir, now, I would like to say something about Uttar Pradesh. I would like to put forth certain other problems through this Bill. However, first I would like to express my gratitude for starting a flight from Delhi to Allahabad and Allahabad to Delhi. But what is the condition of Airport at present. Since we are discussing the issue of accident and compensation, therefore, we have to pay attention towards the condition of airports. A new aircraft of Air India, which was introduced, recently got damaged in an accident in Kanpur after it hit a "Neel Gai". However the passengers of that flight remained safe, and no major accident took place. There is an urgent need to look into the condition of our airports. It appears that some cracks must have been there in the boundary wall of the airport, which allowed to sneak in an animal though a major accident was averted. The airports from where private or Government flights are operating, they need to be repaired so that the purpose of this Bill could be fulfilled. I have expressed my views about the

condition of airports in detail. We have an airbase of the Air force in Allahabad. There are difficulties there. Sometimes at night, landing is not permitted there and due to this problem flight get cancelled. I alongwith hon'ble Member Kunwar Rewati Raman Singhji had demanded and said that Iradatganj is a very old and small airport of Allahabad and if a new Airport is constructed there and for which you may get the land also, all the passengers will be benefited and they would be relieved of all the problems being faced there out. This airport is in Umari village adjacent to Bamrauli. Since it is not related to your Ministry, it is rather related to the Ministry of Defence, the existence of whole village is threatened. Sometimes their passenger are blocked and sometimes their lands are acquired. These all are the problems. Not saying much in this regard, I strongly support this Bill, and I hope that suggestions, which I have put forth before you, will be given attention.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here to deliberate on the Bill, namely, Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007 piloted by the Minister. The main objective of this Bill is to propose amendments in the parent Act so as to accede to the Montreal Convention for the unification of certain rules for international carriage by air.

The Civil Aviation sector is developing fast, and more passengers are traveling by air. It is often said that Indians are flying as if they have never flown before. It is stated that around 4,32,89,000 people took to the skies in 2007 registering 32.15 per cent growth from the figure of 3,26,00,000 people in 2006. All airlines, except Jet, showed a growth ranging around 11.5 per cent.

As I had said earlier that the Civil Aviation sector is developing very fast, and more passengers are traveling by air. But some of them may not be having the awareness and the competence to understand the provisions of the Montreal Convention and this legislation. This Bill is to ensure swift compensation for death or injury to air travelers flying in and out of India in-line with the international norms. This Bill also seeks

to bring the compensation for damage to baggage and air cargo at par with the provisions of the Montreal Convention of 1999. This will help avoid lengthy litigation.

The international legal regime called the Warsaw system governs the liability of airlines for injury or death of their passengers or destruction, loss or damage to baggage and cargo. It also covers the losses caused by delay in international carriage of passengers and their baggage or cargo. So far, India has ratified only two of the eight international instruments that are part of the Warsaw system, which are part of the Carriage by Air Act.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) started an initiative in 1994 to carry out a socio-economic study of the compensation levels following which the Montreal Convention was adopted in 1999. Since a large number of flights operate between India and several countries that have ratified the Montreal Convention, its accession by India is urgently necessary. But, is it true that it could create a situation where, for instance, those passengers whose journey originated from United States or United Kingdom would be entitled to much higher compensation compared to those whose journey originated from India?

Will the Government assure us that even after the enactment of this Amendment Bill, interests of Indian passengers will be at par with other passengers who are travelling to India from foreign destinations?

The Warsaw System had provided for four choices of legal jurisdiction for filing of claims by the passenger or his legal heir. These are: the place where the ticket was issued; the principal place of business of the airline; the destination of the passenger; and the place of domicile of the carrier. The Montreal Convention, which unified all rules including those under the Warsaw System and those governing compensation, adds a fifth jurisdiction which implies the place of domicile of the passengers provided the airline has a presence there, to which I think the domestic state holders had initially objected. We would like to get a reply from the Minister on this aspect. Thus, this would enable an Indian to

[Shri B. Mahtab]

file his claim in India even if the journey was undertaken and ticket purchased outside India provided the carrier has a presence in India.

The Montreal Convention has been ratified by 78 countries of which 21—I do not know whether some more have been added in between—have direct air links with India including high density routes with the United States, the United Kingdom, the Middle East, Canada and Japan. The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007 also seeks to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 that governs the rules of international carriage by air. The Bill which has been introduced is a two-tiered compensation regime for death or injury to passengers. If the accident is the fault of the carrier, then it has an unlimited liability. Otherwise, the carrier's liability is limited to 100 thousand special drawing rights or SDR, which comes to around Rs.60 lakh plus at the current conversion rate which is triple the rate under the earlier Convention.

The Bill very rightly changes the system for compensation of lost or damaged baggage. Under the Warsaw Convention, it was a weight based system. The Montreal Convention changes it to a maximum of SDR 1000, about Rs. 63,000. According to ICAO, 79 countries have ratified and enforced the Montreal Convention including the United States, the European Union, Canada, Japan and China. Some countries ratified the Montreal Convention with specific amendments. For example, Canada excluded military air carriers; and the United States excluded international carriage by air performed by its Government on non-commercial purposes. However, most countries consider the Convention a necessary update to the global regime.

We are told that while the regime is an international regime, the Act provides for its applicability even for domestic passengers. There is a provision in the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, Section 8, under which a notification was issued making the same provisions applicable to even those passengers who are not international passengers. A similar provision, a parallel provision is included in Section 9 of this Bill. As this

Bill applies to domestic carriers, the liability of domestic carriers will definitely increase. My apprehension is that passing of this Bill should not be a plea to increase the domestic fares. I would like to know the implication of the application of Montreal Convention on the fares in domestic sector.

Will the enhanced liability be borne by the operators or passed on to the customers? This, I have spoken only on the Bill. There are other issues relating to civil aviation, which many hon. Members have also dealt with. We are concerned when we are discussing the Bill. I have confined myself only to the provisions which are in the Bill. We need more airports. We need better facilities. The matter about airports authority, which looks after the airports, came up here before. The Minister is here and when we are discussing the position which are prevalent today in our country. Therefore, I would say, as I come from a State like Orissa, where Bhubaneswar airport is posted in the second lot to be developed and which is also drawing large crowds. A number of aircraft from different stakeholders are plying there. But the Minister has also announced while replying to a question some months back that Jharsuguda is also going to be developed. I would only urge taking the advantage of speaking on this Bill that we need to develop and also Jeypore which is in Koraput district, which is in the southern part of Orissa. These are the three airports which need to be upgraded and developed so that remote areas of Orissa, which have potentials to have air passengers, can also take advantage of.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): I stand to support the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007. Actually, there is very little scope to speak on this because so far we have Act of 1972, the Carriage by Air and that really ratified the Hague Protocol. Before that we have the Warsaw Convention of 1929. We all now, one step ahead. Now, there is an international treaty of 1999 and that has been included. My question is this. From 1999 to this date, in these eight years, what is the position? Most of the 78 countries, that had ratified, were getting the compensation and the Indians were not. Thank God, there have not been any

accidents, at least, in India! But there must have been accidents elsewhere, where Indians were also involved. What was the position? What was the compensation paid to those Indians, even if India had not ratified? We have lost very precious eight years. I would like to know from the Minister as to what was the position and as to how much compensation was paid to the Indians.

The other question relates to the domestic airlines. This is an international treaty and it covers all international airlines. I quote Chapter I, clause 45 of the Bill—scope of application—which states that within the territory of another State shall not be deemed to be international carriage for the purpose of these rules. What is the difference? Is the compensation less, if there is a death in the air, even if it is outside or inside? How much is it?

15.00 hrs.

Whatever compensation is to be given internationally, does it apply in the domestic airlines or not? I would like to know what the Minister is going to do about it.

There are other questions which have also come about. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, is there any difference between the first class passengers, business class passengers and an ordinary class passenger under the Montreal Convention. Is the compensation different or all of them are to be given the same compensation? That is a very valid point. He must answer that as well.

Thirdly, let me put across this that there are countries which are not signatories to the Montreal Convention. If an accident happens in a country which is a part and parcel of the Montreal Convention and has ratified it, what happens to that? And if an accident happens in a country which has not ratified that Convention, what will happen to that? Is there any way out for that? These are some of the questions that I wanted to put forth.

Lastly, let me congratulate the hon. Minister that in the four years that he has been the Minister of Civil Aviation—and not the military aviation—he has done a

great work, although the infrastructure has to come up and there is always a gestation period. You cannot say that we are going to have an open sky system and policy and everything will be in line. But it takes time and we understand that. That is why, although the infrastructure is coming up, it will take time.

My last question is this. He has amalgamated the Indian Airlines with Air India. There are a lot of apprehensions especially in the minds of the staff of IA and AI, about their future and they do not know where they are going. Whatever they had been promised, they had not been given and these apprehensions must be looked into by the hon. Minister. Has he reviewed the amalgamation? Has that really benefited both the airlines? This must be cleared.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important Bill. I rise to speak in support of the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill 2007.

I express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister that he has taken an appropriate step through this Bill. This Bill has been brought to make provision for compensation in case of injury or death, loss or damage of luggage during the air journey. This Bill was introduced in 2007 that will make effective the Montreal Convention of 1999. This treaty to above issues including other issues related to the interests of passengers. Recently, the Government has taken a decision to implement the treaty in order to allow carriage of goods from the other major countries of the world. In major provisions of the treaty, it is included to provide advance compensation of 20 thousand US dollars in the event of death or injury. Certainly, this Bill is a welcome step. The way, the number of flights has been increasing at national and international levels in our country and outside, certainly, I am of the view that the possibility of accidents has also increased.

Sir, especially, we were seeing that there was road congestion during last five to ten years in our country, now we are facing the problem of air congestion also.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

I am not aware that how hon'ble Minister will tide over this problem of congestion?

Hon'ble Sir, you belong to Punjab. In Delhi, we have to waste upto two hours time in landing at the airport. The time, taken to come to Delhi is lesser than the time taken waiting for landing. Would you not like to consider this situation? The way Government is allowing air congestion to increase without finding a way out will result only in accidents. Is it not so? The likelihood of accidents is increasing. It is good that you are providing facilities to the passengers. You are increasing the number of flights but at the same time why to allow accidents to occur? Hon'ble Minister should tell what arrangement is being made to prevent the accidents?

Sir, I would like to mention here that when we visit Patna, my Parliamentary Constituency from Delhi and when plane lands at the airport, it appears that plane has been thrown on the Airport. The Patna Airport is small. I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government to expand the airport. A few years back an accident took place there in which more than 20-25 people had died. I am not able to tell you the exact figure. The same situation prevails there even today. I agree that there is no space in Patna city. He has mentioned it many a times and has taken up this matter with the Chief Minister also, but for how long would the lives of passengers be put at risk? Why any concrete measure is not being taken in this regard? Why is any other system not being adopted? You should air services there which poses risk to a passengers life. The Pilots there have made personal requests to me to do something in this regard. The pilots have discussed it with me on a number of occasions. The pilots of private airlines and Indian Airlines talk personally with me. Insecurity prevails there even today. Similarly insecurity prevails in other areas of the country and congestion is on the rise. Why any alternative arrangement is not being made in Delhi? It is agreed that the load has increased on the airport. So, the alternative arrangement should be made so that

the aeroplanes may land smoothly. People travel by air in emergency. If somebody is ill or in difficulty and, at the same time, his flight does not land at scheduled time, then he will be beset with more problems. As far as my experience is concerned, none of their aeroplanes take off in time. Possibly they pay less attention towards Bihar in particular. The aeroplanes are not fully airworthy for operation there. One cannot travel smoothly in them. This is the situation over there. Therefore, I feel that the hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards Bihar and Jharkhand. Though the construction work for new airport has been taken up in Jharkhand and some beautification, work has been started in Patna also, but the arrangement for safe landing should also be made.

If one goes to Mumbai or other major cities he will have to be in queue at the time of landing. One cannot avoid waiting for atleast one hour. Therefore, I would like the hon'ble Minister to ensure that the accidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I have just started. I have just begun my speech. I will extend my thanks at the end of the speech. I have taken only two three minutes so far.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than six minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, your ruling is supreme. If you ask me to sit down, I will take my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have just covered Patna in my speech. I have also to cover the issues related to Haryana, Rajasthan, Mumbai and the place to which Praful Patelji belongs.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You are doing it at a very slow pace, do it at the speed of an aeroplane. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is better if you confine yourself to your own constituency.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Nothing has been done in Patna and also in his own parliamentary constituency. Now, what reply will be given? He has not done anything. As a Minister, he has not done much. If he had done anything, I would have quoted his name.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except whatever Shri Ram Kripal Yadav says, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I express my gratitude to you for starting a new fast air service. Recently, the Haj pilgrims from Patna did not get their baggage back on their return. They are staging agitations daily. We have to face it. The Haj pilgrims are facing a lot of difficulties this time, whereas, attention is not being paid towards this. Why was any inquiry not conducted in regard to the difficulties faced by the Haj pilgrims? The baggage of not even a single passenger has reached since the start of return journey of Haj pilgrim and even holy 'zamzam' or 'Tavarrukh' which is termed as 'Prasad' by us has not reached. The baggage of the pilgrims got misplaced. The Government itself is spoiling its reputation. They are thinking in terms of using private air bus. Probably Haj Committee has taken decision in this regard. Why the Government incurring loss? Make some arrangements in this regard so that it may run smoothly. The people have faith in you, it is the need of the hour in which things are changing fast. The hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Home affairs was asking people to become fast. How will one work fast? If one is allowed to work fast, then it will happen. He is putting hurdles; he is losing faith. He is

young, energetic and has the capacity to work. He is doing good work also but he should work in a more organised manner. Moreover, he is required to win confidence of the people and thus increase the business. Strong measures should be taken to check the accidents. He must pay attention towards Patna. Alternative arrangement for Patna should definitely be made so that we can take safe flights. In winter season, flights are usually late and therefore, nobody knows the exact time of flights. Modernisation is taking place. Still, no special arrangements are being made for operating the flights even during rain, storm and fog. I feel that he must be considering all these issues and in his reply he would give details about the alternative arrangement. He must pay attention towards providing facilities to the passengers, making their journey smooth and also towards increasing business.

With these words while supporting this bill, I conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise on behalf of my party to support the carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill 2007 which has been introduced in the House. This Bill seeks to provide for compensation to the air travelers in the event of injury or death or in case of damage or loss of their luggage. We support it on behalf of our party. Thinking of the Minister is very good and public interest. Through you, I would like to request the Minister to undertake modernisation work of the beautiful airport constructed during the British period at Sultanpur. There is a very beautiful and excellent airport at Sultanpur district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Pratapgarh, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Faizabad are in its centre. It is located between Banaras and Lucknow. The Grant's revenue earning will increase with its construction. A large number of people belonging to the districts of Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh and Jaunpur live abroad and people have migrated to Mumbai and Kolkata to earn their livelihood. They will have convenience in travelling. We shall be highly obliged if you show a special favour in this regard. We hope that this work will be accomplished during your tenure and you will show special

[Shri Mohd. Tahir]

favour to our Sultanpur as no one knows about what will happen in future.

This time the Haj pilgrims had to put up with a lot of inconvenience. They were cheated and misbehaved and were grossly misbehaved in the gulf countries. Here they were misbehaved officials of the Airport. You are a man of good and positive bent of mind. We expect a lot from you and the Union Government that it will not recur in future. When the people particularly those belonging to the Muslim community go aboard, they expect a lot from the Government that it will do justice with them. We would again like to appeal through you while supporting this Bill. Our party trust you. We have extended cooperation to you. We hope that you will undertaken modernisation work of our airport and start air services from there. We support this Bill with this belief and hope.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole heartedly support the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007 introduced by Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Praful Patel. Just now several hon'ble Members have highlighted some problems as to what happened to Haj pilgrims. On a number of occasions, we watch on the television passengers complaining about theft of their luggage or inconvenience experienced by them during the journey. I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister on my own behalf if, on behalf of this House and on behalf of the passengers from India as well as abroad that he has done a significant job. As you have written in the Bill:—

[English]

"The legal regime governing the liability of air carriers for injury or death of passengers, for destruction or damage or loss or damage to baggage and cargo and losses caused by delay in international carriage is set out in a number of international instruments."

[Translation]

It is a very important matter. It is an endeavour

aimed at providing facility to the air passengers. You deserve special thanks for it. Secondly,

[English]

"As the limits of liability were considered to be inadequate, the International Civil Aviation Organisation took the initiative and carried out a socio-economic study with a view to revising the levels of compensation and modernizing the existing liability provisions."

[Translation]

In addition to it, an amount has been earmarked for it.

[English]

"The amount of compensation for death or injury has been enhanced to 1,00,000. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) instead of Gold Francs which after conversion came to US\$ 20,000".

[Translation]

There is one more important point that compensation will also be provided if death occurs after boarding during the journey. Just now hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri V.P. Singh was speaking that this provision should also be extended to domestic flights so as to benefit the domestic air travelers and passengers as often they also have to face these inconveniences. I would not like to take much time. Just now a former Minister concluded his speech. During the NDA regime, I had an opportunity to visit Delhi Air Port. At the airport, I found buckets kept here and there. On being asked I was told that at those spots the roof was leaking. This was the condition at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: That was constructed by your Government.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: But at that time it was under your supervision. Now the condition of airports has improved after four years whether it be the security arrangements, developmental aspects or its structure. I have had several opportunities to go abroad.

Earlier, there was a perceptible difference between our airports and foreign airports but now airports of international standard are coming up in Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai etc. I would like to express my thanks to the hon'ble Minister for this renovation. As the former Minister was speaking that there were 55 thousand flights during his tenure which have since increased to over one lakh. It is benefiting our passengers. It is a great achievement. Not only this, today passengers of all income groups can think of traveling by air. There was a time when only such people used to travel by air. At present, air fares have come down. Competition has intensified and services have increased. There are a number of airways on which passengers can travel at low cost fares. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for this.

Sir, Agra is a very important place. You know that tourists from the entire world visit this place. Similarly, Mathura, which I represent, is the birth place of lord Radha-Krishna. Every year, five to seven crore tourists visit this place. Bird sanctuary of Ghana is 33 kilometres away from here which is visited by a large number of tourists. Even birds from Siberia migrate to this bird sanctuary.

[English]

That is one of the best bird sanctuaries in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): But there is a danger of bird hits.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: An airport is required there in view of tourists inflow to Agra, Mathura and Ghana bird sanctuary. Industries of glass bangles are situated at Firozabad and from there glass articles are exported to the entire world. The Agra airport is surrounded by city and this airport is meant for Air force. That is why I had requested that an international airport should be set up in between Agra and Mathura because passengers through this city from the entire world. I would

like to request you, through this, House, that an airport should be set up there. In this regard, a letter from the hon'ble Minister had been received wherein he had stated that hon'ble Minister had written to the Government of Uttar Pradesh that they are ready to set up an airport there if a stretch of land measuring 5 kilometre in length and 3.5 km in breadth has been made available by the Uttar Pradesh Government. I have written in this regard to the hon'ble Chief Minister also and would also like to request you to write again to the hon'ble Minister.

With these words, I conclude without taking much time and congratulating the hon'ble Minister, I support this Bill.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Discussion is going on in the House over Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007 introduced by the Minister. It is a good Bill and I support this Bill on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. This Bill had been pending for the last one year. Today, the Minister has introduced it for which I would like to thank him.

This Bill to further amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 has been framed keeping in view payment of compensation and compensation for damage and loss of luggage after the air crash of Montreal at 1999. This Bill provides approved to the payment of compensation in case of death or loss of and damage to the luggage or cargo running the air travel. It is a good step and we support it. After passage of the Bill, compensation will be paid in case of death of passengers and loss of and damage to their luggage or cargo. We consider it a practical and praiseworthy step. I thank the hon'ble Minister for incorporating the provision of inflation based increment in the compensation which has been ensured in case of death of passengers and loss of or damage to their luggage or cargo during air travel.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, apart from it I would like to point out something about domestic airports. We had hoped that quality of service will improve after merger of the Indian Airlines and the Air India but nothing of

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

this kind is perceptible. We Members of Parliament often travel by the Indian air carriers. I would like to say that now its services are not as good as they used to be earlier. Through this Bill we are talking of compensation in case of damage to luggage or cargo incidents of loss or damage to luggage or Cargo keep taking place frequently in the Air India or Indian Air lines. The passengers have to wait for hours for their luggage when their planes land at an airport. It is not a good thing. It should be improved. The Minister belongs to Maharashtra and he has taken some dynamic steps in aviation sector. We appreciate him for this. He has introduced many facilities like cheap fare which has made air travel easy and cheaper.

As Shri Ram Kripalji was just speaking, you should also pay attention towards the fact that planes have to hover for a couple of hours in the sky at Delhi and Mumbai Airports for landing due to constraint of space there. When any Minister is travelling in the plane, its landing is taken care of, otherwise the passengers have to face a lot of difficulties due to traffic congestion. You should try to control it.

Delhi and Mumbai airports have been privatized by you. Local people are not being provided employment there. These private companies remove the local peoples from the jobs and give employment to outsiders. G.V.K. company has monopoly in Maharashtra. They are expelling the Marathi people and recruiting outsiders, against which we are protesting. In this regard, I would like to say that be it G.M. or G.V.K or D.G.C.A., the Government must have its control on them. An attempt is being made by a private company in Mumbai to dislocate the slums and grab land which is not proper. The statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji was unveiled by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was the Prime Minister. Hon'ble Balasaheb Thackeray and several Ministers were also present in that function. The private company had tried to remove that statue from there. When there was pandemonium in the legislative Assembly over such attempt GVK reconsidered its stance. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport in Mumbai is an important airport, the other name coming up is GVK, which does not sound

unpressive. The airport should be named after a prominent person. Therefore, you should pay attention to this issue.

Several Hon'ble Members have spoken about Haj pilgrims and pilgrimage. It is a good thing that when someone goes on pilgrimage, people go to airport to see them off. But, I would like to say one thing for Hindu brothers. Today, planes land at Varanasi airport after 10.30 or 11.00 O'clock and take off before 4 O'clock. Every Hindu must visit Varanasi once in life time to pay holy visit to Kashi-Visvanath Baba. But, there is no flight from Varanasi after 4 O'clock and no flight arrives there before 10 or 11 O'clock. Facilities as being provided to the Haj pilgrims should also be provided to them, at least during your tenure. It will add to your popularity and Hindus will also get justice.

I had raised the issue of Chikalthana airport, I thank you for the upgradation of the airport. I had requested to name the Chikalthana airport after 'Raje Sambhaji Bhonsle, I was about to raise this issue during the Zero Hour but my turn did not come during zero hour. I am going to raise this issue in the evening. It is my request to consider the same. Pilgrims visiting Kashi should be provided same facilities as are being provided to Haj pilgrims.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill is required because of the fact that we have decided to accept the Montreal Convention 1999.

Sir, it is good that we are making this legal regime governing the liability of air carriers for injury or death of passengers, for destruction or damage or loss etc. more up-to-date. But, Sir, here while initiating the discussion, an issue was raised that this Convention was accepted in 1999 and why after 1999 we have not amended our legislation suitably to incorporate amendments. Now, in 2008, we are bringing this amendment. Probably, BJP was in power at that time. They have not done it. Now, the UPA Government is in power and they are doing it at the fag end. By delaying

this legislation, I would like the hon. Minister to explain whether we have lost considerably because we are now going in for a new regime by which the passengers would benefit more than what they used to do. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.33 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

But this delay probably would have cost the country and the passengers much, whoever was responsible for the delay. Now, in any case, this amendment is good and we are supporting it.

Sir, taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister because he has introduced a new direct flight from Delhi to Cochin and Trivandrum. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: They are supporting you.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am supporting you. But I would request the hon. Minister to see that in this flight the service is kept better including food and everything. Probably, this is the longest domestic flight that we have. I do not think there is any flight which is flying longer than this. So, adequate care should be taken. That is my request.

Another thing is regarding a request that is pending before you from the Kerala Government and the Cochin Airport Company. That is about starting a new Airlines under the auspices of the Cochin Airport Company mainly to fly between the Gulf countries and Cochin or from the Airports in Kerala. You know the reason because most of the passengers flying in that route are from Kerala. That is an area where a lot of complaints are there about air fare. During the peak season, the air fare is enhanced indiscriminately by the air companies. ...*(Interruptions)* There are many requests.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, why should I conclude now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within five minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I will conclude. It seems that your friend will be given an opportunity to speak now. So, I will not speak more. I will take only two or three minutes.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider that request favourably. Maybe, you may have to relax a little bit the rules that are existing now. But that will be a big favour that you will be doing for Kerala.

You have opened two Airports—one in Hyderabad and another in Bangalore. The approach roads are pretty bad. It seems that the existing, old Airports are getting abandoned due to some conditions. But I have a proposal. I do not know whether that will be acceptable to you or not. We have not enough pilots to run the aircraft. We are getting the foreign pilots and all that. Why do we not start in these two Airports with all the facilities that you have two institutes to train the pilots? It will be a big service for the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am stopping at this. I am under various pressures from the Chair and from this side also. So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider this. I conclude with these words because my friends are pressing me.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have to make some suggestions. ...*(Interruptions)* How far, it is practicable, it is a matter for the hon. Minister to decide. We have certain Conventions with regard to air traffic*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not try to dictate the Chair. You have to do your duty.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: As I said earlier, we have certain Conventions with regard to air traffic. The first one was the Warsaw Convention of 1929. They agreed to it. Secondly, it was followed by the Hague Protocol in 1955 also. Even then, we did not have a separate law of ours. So far as air traffic is concerned, we brought in the first law in 1972. That is

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

the law for the time being in force. Now, he has brought in a new amendment to the original Act of 1972.

This amending Bill is primarily intended to give legal status to the Montreal Convention which was held on May 28, 1999, if I am correct. So, it is for giving the legal status or legal footing to all those decisions. We have also agreed to the Montreal Convention. According to that Convention, this Bill has been brought forward.

In the first place, we are at the age of privatization. Recently, the Government of India, the Cabinet, has also taken a decision to allow private aircraft to fly through private Airports. A number of private Airports will come into play now. This Act is not applicable to them. This is a State Act. If you go through the clauses of this Bill, you will find that the main tendency is to exonerate the Carrier.

It is quite natural that if you encourage private people in operating aircraft, they will definitely give preference to their non-liability. In that context, while reading through the Bill, it appears that the carriers are given non-liability. I have gone through all the sections, but time is not available for me to speak on all of them. If you read section 4 (a) (ii) of the Bill, all the signatories of the Montreal Convention, with the date of enforcement of this Convention, are included in the Part III of the Annexure. The private agencies do not come into play. This Act is not applicable to them also. We will have to frame some rules or bring in some Act to make the private agencies and operators accountable. We do not know whether we will be able to make amendments to this Act or not. But, in the normal course, it will not be possible. But there are certain things which you must consider. Suppose, we travel in our aircraft and we end up. I am reading section 18, sub clause (2) which says: "However, the carrier will not be liable for an act of public authority carried out in connection with entry, exit or transit of the cargo." When we are entering the flight, the security people are also doing the job. If they go wrong, we will not get any compensation. Who is liable? Here in India, 'public authority' means 'security people'.

We are putting all this cargo with the security people. If they go wrong, there is no accountability.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already exhausted four minutes. You have only one minute.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am speaking about the lives of Indian citizens who travel by the aircraft. So, this is the procedure. If an accident happens due to the negligence of the security people, you will not get a pie as compensation. If an act of war or armed conflict happens, suppose, we land in Colombo where LTTE is active; we will not get any compensation even if we lose our life in the carrier. That is the position available in this Act. Another section says, "The carrier shall be liable for damages sustained in case of death or bodily injury of a passenger upon condition only that the accident which caused the death or injury took place on board the aircraft or in the course of any of the operations of embarking or disembarking." No other damage is covered here. The Western developed countries might have included a provision such as this because they want rich and moneyed people to come into operation in this field. So, this can attract private people into this field. We are not in a position to do that.

The poor Indian citizens will not get a pie if this Bill is passed. This is my humble submission.

Sir, there are many things which I can point out here. I do not know whether it is possible for the Minister to make some arrangement to see that these people are also made liable. I am not finding fault with the Minister. He has done his duty. He is amending this Act in such a way to meet the requirements of the Montreal Convention. But we will have to think over the aspect of passengers travelling in the aircraft or their claimants getting damages in the event of any accident. If something happens due to the fault of somebody else in the operation, the passengers will not get a single pie. The passengers do not commit any act of negligence or omission in entering the flight. If at all there is any omission or negligence, it will be done by the State authority, but nowhere is it stated that the

State authority is liable for damages. Will the State authority take the liability? Suppose an omission or some mischief is committed by a security staff and I am travelling by that flight, my descendents will not get any compensation. Will the Central Government pay the compensation in that case?

Then, clause 33 (1) says:

"An action for damages shall be brought, at the option of the claimant of damages, in the territory of one of the State Parties, either before the court of the domicile of the carrier or of its principal place of business, or where it has a place of business through which the contract has been made or before the court at the place of destination."

Sometimes, the accident may occur in some other country and the poor man will have to go to that country and file a suit in the court there for getting the compensation. But he will have to prove that the carrier is liable. Then only the court will have the jurisdiction to take up the case. The first thing to prove is that the accident occurred due to the negligence of the carrier only or his authorized agent only or the contracting party only. So, the claimant is put to the task of providing that the carrier alone is liable. That is the position.

Sir, I do not know what exactly is the amount of damage or compensation the claimant will get. In clause 22 (1) of the Bill, it is stated that in the case of damage caused by delay as specified in rule 19 in the carriage of persons, the liability of the carrier for each passenger is limited to 4,150 Special Drawing Rights.

There are many other things which are not in the interests of passengers traveling in aircraft. Clauses 23 and 31 of this Bill will have to be amended in such a way as not to put the burden of proof on the claimant. That should not be there. This must be looked into by the Minister. I do not know how far it is possible for the Minister to take a decision on this because he is merely incorporating the provisions of the Montreal Convention in this Bill. In the case of the United States of America, it is all right. But the situation in India is different. The burden of proof and liability provisions must be changed to suit the Indian conditions.

These are some of the remarks which I have to make before this House for the consideration by the Government. I would request that necessary steps should be taken to bring further amendments so as to make this Act more meaningful. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion on Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007 is going on in the House. Nobody has spoken against this Bill. I am also not opposing this Bill. This is a good piece of legislation. This Bill provides for compensation in case of loss of baggages, bodily injury or death during the Journey. This is a good mine. But, here the discussion is restricted only to the payment of compensation, whereas there should have been detailed discussion on this Bill. The ambit of discussion is very limited. Discussion on any issue is meaningless unless its basic aspects are addressed. Therefore, basic infrastructure, amenities and safety and security thereof should have been included in the discussion. This is a Bill with limited scope and since everyone else has supported this Bill, hence, I am also supporting it. There are no differences over it. But I would like to point out one thing that there are only 28 immigration counters. Out of these 18 counters are under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs. When the passengers pass through these counters, a five hundred, six hundred and even seven hundred feet-long queue can be seen there. Therefore, the number of such counters be increased in view of safety and security of passengers.

Though you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister that the number of these counters should be increased.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, further I would like to say that the infrastructure at Delhi Airport was developed for handling 1.30 crore passengers. But now it seems that 2.30 crore passengers are using the existing infrastructure. In such a situation, the existing infrastructure is not sufficient to meet the requirement. There is shortage of terminals as well as the runways. We are

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

facing these problems. Sir, earlier when we used to travel by Indian Airlines, we were informed before hand about about the delay in flight and we used to leave for airport accordingly. But this practice is not in vogue now, be it the private airlines or the government airlines, they do not bother to inform us about the delay in flight. When we reach at the airport, we find that the flight is delayed by one hour, two hour and some times six hours and we never told by the authorities as to for how long the flight has been delayed. They simply inform us that flight is late by twenty or thirty minutes and thus, a six hours get elapsed in waiting due to this very reason. In such a condition we can neither go back home nor go anywhere else but have to wait for six hours. Hence, as long as you do not pay heed to the conveniences of passengers, it will serve no purpose. It is more painful than the loss of baggages at the airport.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a flight of Jet Airways from Patna at night. Sh. Ram Kripal Yadav Frequently travels by the same flight which is mostly delayed and arrives here two hours late. We keep on hovering over Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan because of this. We can hardly see anything else than light during the night on plane moves towards a ry city. Sir, it is a huge wastage of fuel. I had read in a magazine, where it was mentioned that it cost 120 dollar for a plane to travel one minute that is, it incur a loss of Rs. 4800 per minute and emits 160 kg of carbon dioxide per day. Thus, there is wastage of fuel and we are dependent on other countries for fuel. Hence, there is wastage of 1460 crore rupees annually as per data collected by him. I think many airports can be set up with the same amount. This loss has to be compensated and there is already a hue and cry and emission of carbon dioxide and due to this buses were suspended on well. The carbon dioxide emitted by aircrafts tells upon the human health. I think these all issues need to be looked into. Apart from this, standard of catering service has also gone down. The most unfortunate thing I would like to state that Hindi Newspapers or Magazines are not available for passengers during the flights, be it private airlines or Government airlines. On the one hand, we

celebrate Hindi Pakhwara for the promotion and propagation of Hindi, once in a year but Hindi Newspapers or Magazines are not available in the flights. It seems that this department is bent upon not to adopt it or as if it abhors Hind. It is therefore requested to kindly issue guidelines to private and government airlines for providing Hindi Newspapers and Magazines during flights.

I shall conclude after seeing certain information since I have risen to have this information itself. This matter pertains to security. The hon'ble Minister is a very good person. Will he be pleased to state as to under what circumstance Indigo airline given premission to operate here? I will express regret if my information is wrong. So far as I know, Indigo is doing business in joint venture with some Dubai-based company. In fact they had applied here for ground handling and since their tender was the lowest it was awarded to them. In fact there tender was rejected as there was an intelligence report that this organisation has connection with the Pakistan based terrorist organizations in which some officers belonging to Pakistan army also working But what had the Government to allow them to operate in India whereas they were not allowed to undertake ground handling? Is there no threat to security from this? The 9/11 incident of America should not be forgotten. Use of aircrafts for terrorists attack got worldwide publicity. The incident was so big that nobody across the world has been able to forget it. If integrity of any person is doubtful and there are reports from I.B. that the person has connections with some terrorist organizations and all the Pakistani terrorists as also the retired personnel from Pakistan army, who are worring in connivance with terrorists, work with that person, even after this if the person is allowed to operate here, then I think the security of the country is being compromised in a most casual manner. I will wait for the Minister's reply on this issue. With this, I support this Bill and would like you to satisfy me with your reply. ...* Who is Indigo and under what circumstances they were allowed to operate flights while they had connections with the terrorist organizations? With this, I conclude.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007. This Bill will have a far-reaching impact on all the stakeholders: the airlines, the travel agents and the cargo operators. But it appears that the Government did not consult any of the stakeholders while formulating this Bill. When we go through the Report of the Standing Committee which vetted this Bill, it is very clearly stated that when they appeared before the Standing Committee, all the stakeholders said that they were not at all consulted while the Government finalized this Bill.

Anyway, as has been said here earlier, the Bill seeks to enable the Government to accede to the Montreal Convention for unification of rules for international carriage by air so that we are at par with all the other major countries of the world. We had ratified the Warsaw Convention in 1929, and subsequently the amendment of that Convention called the Hague Protocol in 1955. We are now bringing into effect the major decisions of the Montreal Convention which was passed in 1999.

Through this, Sir, we will be revising the levels of compensation and the existing liability provisions. I should congratulate the hon. Minister even, though a little late, that we are now offering the passengers and the users of airlines, compensation for death or injury enhanced to one lakh Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and also the jurisdiction of dispute.

16.00 hrs.

The place of domicile of the complainant or the passenger has been included. There is a provision for advance payment of compensation, and also there is a review by the liability based on inflationary trends. All these are very good as far as the passengers are concerned. But there are certain questions how this law will affect an airlines operating under an agreement with another airlines. There are seat-sharing agreements between the airlines. It is not very clear from the provisions of the law.

Sir, there is a provision for a two-tiered compensation regime for death or injury to passengers. If the accident is the fault of the carrier, then there is an unlimited liability. Otherwise, the carrier's liability is limited to one lakh Special Drawing Rights. Now, who will decide the liability of the carrier? It is not very clear from the Bill.

I would also like to make a request to the hon. Minister that the Government should state whether the airlines will be passing the increased financial liability on the customers when this rule is adopted, thereby resulting in the hike of the airlines fares. We would request that the domestic operators should adopt a transparent policy while taking a decision consequent to the adoption of this Bill.

Sir, I would generally say that this is a very good step, and this will be of great benefit to the passengers, even though it may be resisted by the stakeholders.

Sir, the Government recently came out with a policy on new airports, new Civil Aviation Policy, and there is one provision in that. I would request the hon. Minister to rethink about it. The provision is that for setting up a new airport, it should not be within 150 kms of aerial distance from the existing airport. There has to be some relaxation for major tourist destinations in the country, as far as this particular provision is concerned. We can have a major tourist destination which may not be 150 kms of aerial distance away from the existing airport but there may be a requirement for air connectivity as far as development of this tourist destination is concerned. In Kerala, Idukki district is one of the major tourist destinations of the country, and we are trying to establish a new airport, medium-sized airport there. Of course, we know that it is not 150 kms of aerial distance away from the existing Cochin airport but there has to be an exemption for major tourist destinations like this.

Sir, with these words, I support the Bill, and I congratulate the Minister for coming out with this legislation which will be of great benefit to the ever increasing air passengers in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me time to speak. A Bill which has been moved today to make amendment in the carriage by Air Act, 1972 is very good thing. It has good points for a common man such as compensation for loss of baggage any kind of loss incurred to anybody and it is indeed very good thing. Hence, I support this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the NDA regime under the leadership of hon'ble Atalji, a number of schemes were formulated and the Department of Civil Aviation was the only department which wanted that there should be big airports in the whole country and the facilities therein should be increased and development should be made and they should be made as per international parameters. Shri Praful Bhai is going ahead with this work very successfully. The hon'ble Members, representatives of each party have praised him and I also have praised him a number of times in the Consultative Committee. that it has been a commendable job.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, more attention need to be paid towards this as it is 2007 developing with the pace country is progressing and the number of passengers is increasing. So, there is a need to work and pay more attention. The number of airports and aircrafts is increasing day by day in the country. It is a matter of immense pleasure for all of us. Today there are 454 airports in the country including Defence airports. There are 399 aircrafts and 15 airlines in total including cargo airlines operational in the country. There is only one for cargo. So, there is a need to give more importance to the Cargo.

Sir, there has been a discussion in the Committee many a times about this possibility that the number of aircrafts will be approximately 1000 by 2020. Presently there are 88 million domestic passengers and approximately 30 million international passengers in our country. The number of domestic and international passengers is increasing slowly in the country. In total there has been a movement of 180 million international passengers in our country. This number is likely to be

increased upto 280 million by 2020 For 280 million international passengers we will have to construct big infrastructure, and for that a number of things have got to be kept in mind and needed discussion.

Sir, today the population of our country is more than one billion. Though our air journey has become a little bit costlier, yet we see that airports are crowded. We travel less by air compared to the people of other countries. Yet, there is rush at the airports that can be understood.

Sir, according to the Planning Commission, our growth is 15% and it will continue. Delhi and Mumbai are two main airports of our country which come under the joint venture. It is a good thing but a number of hon'ble Members have made a submission about the crowd and amenities at the airports. I do not want to take time of the House by repeating the same things. It has been noticed that many times our flight keeps on hovering in the skies and sometimes it keeps on hovering for 15-20 minutes and we get late. The pilots say that we are in queue and, they say that our number is 15 or 16 to land at the airport and that is why we are awaiting.

Sir, this is not your mistake. The Sixty years have passed since India's independence. These problems have not surfaced if the Government would have made their pain keeping in view increasing our passengers at the time when Delhi airport was set up after the Independence. It is fine that you are increasing the number of airports day by day but the kind of planning and designing that should be, is not there. Due to this our flights land at such a distance that it takes 20 minutes to reach the road. It would not have happened, had the Government thought about it earlier and made proper and advance planning in this regard. The population of this country is increasing. Had the airports of the country been set up keeping in view the growing population, our country would have achieved new heights by today. A specific care that should have been taken, was not there.

Sir, it is good that you are going to turn the Bangalore and Hyderabad airports into Green Field

Airports. This stip was also taller during NDA. During NDA regime, the concept of Green Field Airports was conceived which is now being given a practical shape. Thus, you have also inaugurated the Ahmedabad airport and this is also a good thing but I do not know whether it will be called a Green Field Airport or not. I want to say only that you will have to keep in mind the Ahmedabad airport because the importance of Ahmedabad is also growing now. More and more passengers are going to London, America, Australia and Canada daily from here. There is no country in the world where Gujaratis are not there. They are connected to all. But it is very sad that no direct flight to London and Europe from Ahmedabad has been introduced as yet. In this connection, I have made submission a number of times to introduce direct flights to London, America and other countries of Europe from there. But it has not been done so far. They have to go to Mumbai first from Ahmedabad to take their flights for onward journey to London or other countries of Europe. Thus their whole night goes waste because there is a flight to America or Europe at 7 or 8 O'clock in the morning from Mumbai. Therefore, it will be better, if direct flights are introduced.

Sir, Kolkatta and Chennai airports are being set up by the Airports Authority of India. As per my assessment, approx. 4 thousand crore rupees are likely to be spent there. The Airport Authority of India has also done good work. The Authority is carrying out good work. It is also good that we are assigning the tasks to the outer agencies also. But we should boost up the morale of Airport Authority of India by assigning it more work and should also appreciate it. At present 20 airports are being given a face-lift. I have further made a submission that Gujarat should also be included in this development work. Our historical places of Gujarat such as Porbandar, Rajkot, Surat and Bhav-Nagar should also be kept in mind as you have been to Porbandar recently. Presently, amount to the tune of Rs. seven thousand crore has been assessed to be spent at airports and if this much of amount is spent, it will be much better. But, beside this, the amenities I have talked about will have to be provided there.

There is no city connectivity at Bangalore and

Hyderabad airports. The Bangalore and Hyderabad airports have been set up at such a distance that there is no connectivity to city. In this connection information should be sought from the state Government and the State should create infrastructure. It is the duty of the state. If the airport is set up at such a distance, people will feel inconvenience in reaching airport. Today, beside modernizing the airports, the concerned state government should also be pressurized to provide the infrastructure, there and construct convenient roads. In my view, to slow pace of work at the Delhi airport, would not be carried out properly. There should be international airport-like amenities at the modern airports which are being constructed. If such amenities are not provided there, they will not be termed modern airports.

Presently, we want the rating of higher level. There should be a rating of three and half to four. Our rating should never be less than that. If the rating is kept in mind, it will give more benefit in the days to come. Air cargo will have to be thought of in future because our trade is increasing. International and domestic trades are also increasing, that's why there is a need to pay more attention to cargo. Now, new players and new business entrepreneurs will jump into the fray of cargo business, which will witness a huge expansion.

The Government has granted permission to some private Airlines to international flights. If more Airlines are granted such permission, the fares of international flights will also be reduced. More and more business tycoons have opted for operating airlines because the NDA Government took the decision of granting permission to Private players. Now the situation is such that Private airlines are vying for competition in the Aviation sector in which they are required to pay Rs. 2000-2200 as tax to the Government and they earn Rs. 200, Rs. 500 or Rs. 700. Air travel to foreign countries will also become cheaper and convenient if permission is granted to more and more Airlines to operate flights to foreign destinations.

Our Aviation management is not upto the mark. We do not possess state-of-the art equipments. I would urge upon the Civil aviation Minister to import the best technology available in the world for managing aircraft

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

during the flight. With such technology we can command and control the flight in the air as well and ensure safety. The passengers do not board the international flights unless they ensure that their Cargo has been loaded in the aircraft. At times, our baggage is left behind at the Airport; and we have to change the flight and under these circumstances we have to wait for 2-3 days to receive our baggage containing our clothes etc. In such a situation the passenger is left with no clothes to change and heads for the market directly from the Airport to buy some clothes to wear. It should be ensured that the passenger gets his baggage on time. A concern has been expressed in this regard in the current Bill which is commendable. Once I went abroad in an international flight and the bag. I was carrying had become so dirty and ramshackled that I had to purchase a new bag. Sometimes there is pilferage of the baggage contained in the bag. The valuables are stolen from these bags. This is not my concocted story. This has been revealed in a report of Delhi police which says that things are stolen directly from the Airport.

Moreover, it is not proper to send both the passengers of the 1st class as well as the 'J' class in the same queue. There should be separate queues for the passengers of the 1st class and the general category passengers. One has to stand in long queues at Ahmedabad Airport. People start queuing up at 11.00 a.m. in the morning and gain entry not before 1.00 p.m. When I have to take a flight, I try to sneak forward. Other people pity at me. I have a good height, as such, I am not even able to conceal myself behind any other person. I have myself confessed before you raise a finger.

What is the reason the Indian people in foreign countries like to travel by Air India? They presume that they will meet a countryman in the aircraft. Indians rather than foreigners should be employed in the offices of the national carrier in foreign countries because an Indian alone can take care of another Indian. As reservation gets cancelled without notice in foreign countries, Indians employed at the airport can be helpful as they can comprehend and converse in Hindi. Thus,

a passenger feels at home. The present set of staff speak English. They do not know Hindi. The people of Gujarat neither know Hindi nor English. As such the older people face many difficulties. Sir, reservation should not be cancelled at the drop of the hat. People come to the Airport from far off places and they are bluntly told that the flight has been cancelled. Where would they go then? They do not have even an acquaintance in a foreign land.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: If there is a proposal to revise the fare, there is a need to ponder over it. The foreign bound passengers do not get any information with regard to the flight on time. I had still much to speak, but due to the paucity of time I am concluding.

There is need to increase the number of flights at Ahmedabad, Surat, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Porbandar airports. People have been working there on contract basis for the last 15-20 years as I had stated in the Committee. They are the daily wagers and our brethren. When the Government has set up such a huge infrastructure, it should have no hiccups in regularising the service of these daily wagers. I was very happy when the hon. Minister visited Ahmedabad. In the advertisement, the names of a Rajya Sabha M.P. and two Lok Sabha M.Ps. were included but I would say that in every such function names of all the local MPs should invariably be included.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by narrating a couple of lines which I generally quote during my speech. Hope you would like them.

"Hawai adda banne ja raha hai bus adda,
aage peche lag raha hai ek dusre ko dhakka
yatri bankar reh jaata hai hakka-bakka,
dekhna hai hawai jahaaz ka na ho jaye jaam chakka
uddayan mantri Shri Praful Patel,
log airport aayenge chhod ke rail,
Sambhalna hai mushkil na ho jaaye airport ka khel,
O maananiya mantri Shri Praful Bhai Patel,"

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

I rise to support the Bill. As the hon. Minister has mentioned in his opening remarks, the Bill is brought in to ratify the Montreal Convention. As other hon. Member mentioned, the major objective is to make parity in compensation to our Indian passengers with international passengers of other countries. Thus, the compensation is straightaway going to be more than three to fourfolds. What is important is that this compensation need not be reviewed yearly with regard to inflation, but it will be automatically increasing proportionate to the inflation. More importantly, as others have mentioned, it provides for advance payment in case of death or injury. It also gives the passenger a choice of jurisdiction being expanded to include the place of domicile of the passenger. It also brings uniformity in the application of liability regime, ending the multiplicity of international instruments. Hence, I support the Bill.

Having said this, I want to join other Members in congratulating the Minister for his commendable performance in the last four years. The last four years have seen a boom in civil aviation industry and it is mainly the private sector that grew, but the hon. Minister was much concerned about the State airline, that is, Indian, and it is keeping in pace with the private industry. I believe, the merger of the Indian and Air India has brought the desired results and it is on the move.

Let me tell what my concerns are. Though the merger and other things have brought the State airlines at par with private industry, but still we have a long way to go. The State airlines must remain for two reasons. First, it should keep the fares low in comparison to the private industry. Second, it should also set quality standards for other industries to follow. In this regard, we have a very good airlines, which keep timings etc., but the service of the airlines' personnel is far from desirable. I would request the hon. Minister to take cognizance of this fact and ensure that our State

airlines' personnel know how to work and develop a culture of high quality at par with private airlines. You may have to train them in the same places where the private airliners are training their personnel.

I am also going to make this request to the Minister. I know that the Supreme Court has given an order that they cannot ground any personnel more than 30 years of age even though the Ministry wanted it earlier. But I think that we should go for a review petition. It is not that we are looking for young women on the flights, but we want young men and women who are fast enough and responsive enough, to the needs, to be on the airlines.

I want to mention one more point. India and the Indian youth are on the move, and the industry is expanding. I would request the hon. Minister—as has been requested by many other Members—to expand it to the smaller towns. There are many towns where the airports, that already exist, are lying unutilised. Let us take the example of Salem district. The airport is there, and it can cater the services. But, unfortunately, it is not being used. I would request the Minister to consider utilising these airports. More importantly, we have our own aircraft-making industry, which should be used by the Indian Airlines. We can produce, at least, the smaller aircraft like 15-seater aircraft. I think that the Minister should continue utilising HAL's products.

Finally, the MPs from Kerala have always been saying that their passengers are paying more than other passengers. This has been heard many times in the Parliament, but only the MPs from Kerala were raising this issue. Now, I also want to raise this issue. Please help them as this issue had been talked about in the Parliament on more than three or four occasions.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill moved by the Minister of Civil Aviation and congratulate him for this. Actually, there were some shortcomings in the Carriage By Air Act, 1972 and it was very essential to include terms of

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Montreal Convention in it. Earlier Act has the terms agreed in Hague Protocol and Warsa Convention. Since India is bound to abide by international agreements, therefore, it is very natural that we should include all these things. The compensation should be paid to the passengers in case of death, loss of baggage or any other accident. I support this bill brought for this purpose. I also support the views expressed by my friends. I would just like to say that three things—safety, security and punctuality should be kept in view. A sign is enough for a wise man.

I would like to say something about Ajmer. Ajmer is a center of faith at international level and lakhs of Hindus and Muslims visit Dargah of Khwaja Saheb. Our former Minister of Civil Aviation is present here. He had announced that international airport would be constructed there. The Airport Authority official had visited three sites, survey was conducted and the site was selected, the process for the acquisition land was about to begin, but the then Government did not allot the land. After that another Government came to power. It made efforts, but nobody took action at Central Government's level. You have visited Ajmer many a times, you visit Pushkar also, tourists in large number visit that place, the people of Sindhi community have spread their roots in the entire world, and after partition of India, lakhs of them are residing in Ajmer city. The people visit this place from pilgrimage point of view also. Our former Prime Ministers, the Presidents of various parties, important leaders have visited Ajmer and after visiting this place, they said that the airport should be constructed in Ajmer. If Airport is constructed, it would be convenient for them also. Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, our countrymen and Non-Resident Indians get down at Jaipur to proceed to Ajmer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raise this issue under separate rule, today speak on bill only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: This is a very important issue and I would like to seek your protection. Many people from your State Bihar visit this place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion is regarding this Bill, therefore, speak about that only.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I would like to know the time by which all the assurances given would be fulfilled. Now it is being said that the distance between Jaipur and Ajmer is less than 150 kilometres, therefore, it cannot be undertaken. Now, the Government is relaxing conditions to some extent and giving opportunity to private airways also. He is talking of Kishangarh. Kishangarh has small runway. It should be developed into full fledged airport...*(Interruptions)*. Nasik would be little far away and Commuting would be problem. Therefore, if it is constructed near Ajmer, I feel, it would facilitate lakhs of pilgrims visiting Dargah and passengers visiting Pushkar. As it is located in the Centre of Rajasthan, it can be connected with many other places. It would reduce rush at Delhi also. I hope that he will pay special attention in this regard.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak again and once again congratulate the hon'ble Minister. I want an assurance from the hon'ble Minister, he must say something positively on this issue.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, this Montreal Protocol was signed way back in 1999. Since then, 69 countries have ratified it. Though we are buying brand new jets and traveling at supersonic speeds, it has taken a little more than eight years for us to move towards ratifying the Montreal Protocol through the enactment of this law.

I welcome this Bill because after its enactment we are going to get more compensation for those who die during the course of air travel. However, I would like to point out an irony and request the Minister to look into it. One has to be very lucky even in death to get this compensation. Of course, nobody is lucky to die. Maybe some people feel that if they die they get moksha. To get this compensation after death, one has to die in a particular way. Only those who die in an accident which has caused death or injury taking place onboard the

aircraft or in the course of any of the operations of embarking or disembarking, get this compensation.

If a person dies after touching the tarmac, he is not going to get this compensation. If somebody who has not set his foot on either the ladder of the plane or actually got into the plane dies in the terminal building, he is not going to get this compensation. I had put this question to the Minister as to how many people died in the last three four years in the terminal buildings of the airlines. The Minister gave me a written reply saying that he had no such information because the Department did not maintain that record. This being so, I would request the Minister to make sure that the contract between the traveler and the airline starts when the traveler gets into the act of traveling. It is as a part of the sequence of his air travel that he enters the air terminal. The compensation that is now sought to be provided to an air traveler by virtue of his buying a ticket and actually getting into this act which is very specifically mentioned, should also be extended to all those who actually die unfortunately on the premises of the air terminals run by the Airports Authority of India. That is a very important point.

The damages that are sought to be provided are Rs. 100,000. This amount of Rs. 100,000 is not a very substantial amount. There is a loss of human life. For example, if somebody has embarked on a journey to the United States from India, he is probably paying half of the compensation money anyway towards the air ticket. So, I would say that it is not something which should be considered a very high amount. However, since we are actually now ratifying a protocol and this supersedes and replaces the earlier one, it is a welcome measure. However, the damages should not be just Rs.100,000. As the Minister has provided, it will increase with the inflation. Given the rate at which inflation is going up now, the passengers should expect a better premium.

We really need to make sure that damages that are provided are incremental damages. These damages should be in addition to what is actually available to a particular person as a result of another insurance policy. That is something which I hope the Minister will clarify.

With regard to domestic passengers, these rates of compensation cover only the international passengers. Actually the domestic passengers also should be covered by this. Take for example that a traveler from Pune has to catch an international flight from Mumbai and has to go abroad. If he dies in the flight from Mumbai to a foreign country, he is covered, while he is not covered if he dies in the flight from Pune to Mumbai. We should look into it and make sure that all domestic passengers are treated at par with the international passengers. That is because the airlines which are operating internationally are also operating domestically now. Therefore, it is desirable that this is given to the domestic travelers also.

The other issue is the jurisdiction. What is provided is, the jurisdiction could be also the passenger's domicile. That is a welcome thing otherwise, a passenger would be required to file a suit in New York, if the airlines is registered in New York, even though the passenger has actually bought the ticket in Mumbai. Therefore, this is a welcome that but the clarification that is required is that the jurisdiction should be as per the choice of the passenger and not as per the choice of the airlines. When you are mentioning the domicile, please make sure that the rules are framed in an adequate manner so that the passengers should not be hoodwinked and they do not have to go from one place to another. This is really required to be done.

Regarding settlement of claim itself, I think, we should specify some time-limit. This is something which we are providing for damages. What happens is that the airlines may accept the damage, but the claim is settled over a long period of time. One has to go through various channels to get it settled. So, there is a need to provide for it as to how actually it is going to be settled.

The other issue which always agitates the passengers mind is this. Normally the compensation that is provided for loss of baggage is calculated as per the weight of the bag. Just imagine, how can the weight of the bag would be the only criteria to decide how much damage the passenger has suffered? If

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

somebody is carrying invaluable document and if he loses it, maybe, it is not weighing much at all but the loss is more than somebody who may be carrying a very heavy baggage, which does not cost anything. So, what is important is the contents of the baggage. It also should be given some sort of weightage in terms of calculation of how much damage should be paid.

I would like to draw Minister's attention to page 7 of this Bill, clause 3 in Chapter III, where it is stated: "The carrier admits the loss of the checked baggage or if the checked baggage has not arrived at an expiration of 21 days after the date on which it ought to have arrived." Does the Minister think that 21 days is a fair time for the baggage to arrive? Then, the passenger is eligible to get the compensation. I would request the Minister that he should have a reasonable period, not such a long period of time.

I will conclude by saying that this is a very welcome measure. Generally, we have always been seeing the dynamism of the Minister in terms of renovating airports, bringing out new airports, buying new aircraft and really revamping it in the midst of very great opposition. So, it is a very commendable thing. I would request the Minister to show the same dynamism in bringing better improvements, not just in the Bill, which is only ratifying the Protocol of Montreal, but bring some more improvement in that Protocol because ratifying the Protocol does not mean that we have to accept the same thing. We can go beyond it and make sure that passengers of India get a good deal and not a raw one.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Sir, there is not much scope to speak on this Bill. It is very limited. I do not want to question as to why it took eight years to ratify the Montreal Convention. Four years were taken by the NDA Government and it took four years for the UPA Government. So, it is equal. The salient feature of the Montreal Convention is related to the causing of death or injury or the loss of the baggage. My apprehension is, after this Bill is ratified, there may be increase in the air fares of the domestic air carrier. So,

hon. Minister may kindly ensure that this does not happen and airlines remain for the common people of India.

On this question, I have one important point to make. The provision for the cargo airlines in India is really not taking up. India is a large country and we really need to have a dedicated airline to look after the cargo and the Government must push forward with this policy so that the private players also can be encouraged at the same time, the Government can also initiate. Today also, in the 21st century, we are not having enough facilities to deliver our goods to the right destination and at the right time. I feel that the Ministry of Civil Aviation can come up with certain programmes and policies to do away with this obstacle.

Going away from the Bill, I have a few suggestions to make. We have been getting a lot of reports these days, of technical snags in the aircrafts because of which we have diversion, emergency landing, etc. So many incidents are being reported, which are very much disturbing. To ensure air safety, the rules must be made very stringent and we must ensure that the people working in this sector must be given proper training and proper facilities and there has to be a proper policy from the Government also, which is unfortunately lacking. The hon. Minister seems to be very dynamic, but we are expecting a firm policy and a firm direction from the Ministry.

Another important point is this. People talk about Haj and other subsidies. We have a very important religious place in Manasarovar Lake and Kailash Parvath which is very important pilgrimage for both Hindus and the Buddhists. I do not know whether this Ministry with the help of MEA had initiated some kind of a discussion with the Chinese Government so that our people can go annually. The Hindus may just go round the Kailash Parvath; and the Buddhists are more dedicated.

[*Translation*]

While lying on the ground they move and go round the holy place. Therefore, it is very important matter. Today, I got the opportunity, therefore, I am saying it,

He may not give the reply in this regard today itself, but should pay serious consideration to this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I am just giving the suggestion, as I hail from North-East, therefore, I am saying it. I would like to give the last suggestion.

[English]

I will speak one more thing for the North East. You have talked about the dedicated air corridor for the North East. It is not really happening. The hon. Prime Minister has also promised; the Civil Aviation Minister was also there to launch one Greenfield Airport at Kharsingasa. The delay is so much that I feel that the target which he has fixed is not going to be achieved. I have a serious apprehension. We get 32 air tickets in a year as an MP and now it is 34, but I complete that in the first two months of the year. We do not have train service.

[Translation]

we use only air service, therefore, 34 free air journeys are used in first two months of the year. In the rest of year, we travel by paying from our own pocket.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the subject.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: We get tickets for session. So, dedicated airlines for the North East is very important and sometimes we have to use the tickets for Rs. 2000-facility.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister is very experienced, therefore he should take it seriously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going beyond the subject. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I am concluding my speech, but I have to raise this issue. He should take the issue raised during his meeting with the Members from North-East seriously and take action thereon. This is my request.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise to support the Bill. I also congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Carriage by Air Bill, 2007, at a time when the civil aviation sector is developing very fast and more and more passengers are traveling by air.

Most of the previous speakers have spoken on the merits of the Bill. This Bill extends certain benefits to the passengers. It is expanded to include the place of domicile of the passenger, provision for advance payment in case of death or bodily injury and also provision for review of limits of liability based on inflation so that the need to amend the Convention is obviated.

There is a proposal for two-tier compensation regime for death and injury to the passengers. Here, I will like to know from the hon. Minister who is the deciding or determining agency to give compensation. How do you ensure that the compensation is being paid? And, if the compensation is not paid what penalty is imposed on the airlines for default in payment?

Sir, in the proposed Bill the domestic flights are not included. I hope that the Government would notify a similar provision to involve domestic passengers also.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the life of the workers employed as ground handling workers at various airports of the country. Not only at Cochin but I believe at all other airports, there are casual workers who are doing this job either because they have given their land or come under death-in-harness appointment. They have been working there for the last 10-12 years but they have

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

not been regularised. They are still getting minimum daily wages. They are the employees of the Air India. Now the ground handling work is given to the private contractors. ...*(Interruptions)* The daily workers whose antecedents are not known are being employed by the private contractors. These workers are paid a very meagre amount. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister and the Government to regularise those casual workers who have been there for the last so many years and also to hike their wages.

As Prabhunath Singhji has pointed out, these private contractors are a security threat. If I am right, it is learnt that the Director-General of Civil Aviation Security did not agree to engage the private contractors for the ground handling job. So, I urge upon the Minister to look into the matter. Those employees who have been working there for the last so many years may be regularised and may be given better wages. With these few words I support the Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. Actually, we support this Bill. There is no question of our opposing the Bill. After the Hague Protocol and Warsaw Convention, it took us nearly 18 years to get the Air Carriage Act in 1972. Now, this Bill envisages that the Montreal Convention; Articles and its decisions will be incorporated into the Carriage by Air Bill. So, it is a welcome measure.

I would like the hon. Minister to refer to page 6: "The liability of the carrier and the extent of compensation for damages". In today's scenario Rs. 1 lakh is too less. This should be enhanced to a proper limit because the human value which is going to be lost, if it is lost—God forbids, it is not lost—has no limit. Technical snag is a very commonly used word by all the airlines when there is a delay in flight due to a bad weather. Whenever a flight is delayed inordinately, if you ask them they will say that it is a technical snag. We do not know what a technical snag is. We are not aeronautical engineers. But here I would say that in this Bill, you should have incorporated that today the planes are being used as weapons by terrorists. Take the

instance of 9/11. Due to the technical snag, if a plane lands in some habitation as a result of emergency landing, then there is always loss of lives not of air passengers but also of the people of the habitation where it lands. A lot of civilians die. So, there must be a compensation package for them also. People lose their lives because of the fall of aircraft.

Today, I am sorry to state that a lot of private airlines have come up. But I think they have creamed out everything from the Airports Authority of India, right from loading to security check to cooking to everything. So, I would like to know from the Minister how much Airports Authority of India is charging for the facilities which are being extended through the Airports Authority of India to these private airlines.

There have been accidents of engineers in the airport. People have died because of faulty management inside the airport. Just recently a lady engineer lost her life in the Delhi Airport. So, all kinds of problems come up. How was that lady compensated? Was she compensated by the Airports Authority or by the private airlines in which she was working? We would like to have a clarification on this. Generally, it is a very good Bill. What happened to Shri Sushil Modi, Deputy Chief Minister? He was treated badly.

Lastly, I would like to say that these aircraft are being used by hijackers. One Mr. Katiyal lost his life when an aeroplane was hijacked to Kandahar from Nepal. So hijacking is becoming common and these planes are being used as weapons. So, to make the air travel more safe, I would like the Minister to look into these matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Deo, please conclude now.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the eastern sector has been neglected. I have written a letter to the Minister also. A Vayudoot Service used to operate from Jeypore to Jharsukhda to Rourkela in Sundergarh and Utkela in Kalahandi. These four airstrips require ATR services. Will the Minister be kind enough to provide these services? It is because a lot of industrial activities are coming up there. A lot of bauxite is being developed there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You are going beyond the scope of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I am very thankful to all the hon. Members who have very actively participated in this discussion for the passage of this Bill. The very fact that 23 hon. Members, including a former Civil Aviation Minister who initiated the discussion, spoke on this Bill very extensively. Most of them not only spoke about the Bill but most of them spoke on the entire aspect of civil aviation in this country. This itself is an indication of the changing times and of the relevance this sector enjoys vis-a-vis development and the economic wellbeing of our nation. It is a fact that air connectivity has its own importance in bringing the nation closer also.

Sir, the basic objective of this Bill is, of course, as all the hon. Members have pointed out, is our ratification of the Montreal Convention of 1999. There is, of course, an earlier Act which is known as Carriage by Air Act of 1972. As all of you are aware, no country can be in isolation as far as air services are concerned.

This is guided by an international protocol. International Civil Aviation Organisation is the apex body of aviation. It forms various rules and regulations and legislation is passed by respective countries based on mutually agreed terms and conditions, which the member-States have to agree. The Montreal Convention is one of those agreements where all member-nations agreed that some changes needed to be brought in terms of compensation to passengers in various circumstances whether it was death, injury, or loss of cargo or baggage etc. In terms of the level of compensation, which many hon. Members have pointed, I must concede that well, in terms of compensation there could be various view points expressed. But since it is an international protocol every member-State has to agree. It is not that a passenger in India can claim more compensation and a passenger in the United States or in France can expect lesser compensation. It has to be guided by the principle of equity. That is exactly why the extent of damages which have been provided has

to be in uniformity with the international agreement which has been brought about by this Montreal Convention.

Some hon. Members have raised the issue of domestic compensation. This issue has been raised by Shri Suresh Prabhu and Shri Mehtab and a few other Members. They have raised the issue that this is only applicable to international travel. That is not exactly true. Though this Montreal Convention has to be guided by international protocol and it covers international travel. But as far as domestic compensation is concerned, we have the same level of domestic travel for all these parameters which have been mentioned. It is at the same level as international compensation which at the moment is being paid to passengers by respective airlines. This was done by a separate notification for which enabling provisions already exist in the Carriage by Air Act. Now, as and when this House passes this Bill and it becomes an Act, we will definitely consider a separate guideline again for enhanced compensation to the domestic passengers also keeping in view the principle of equity between international and domestic passengers. There is no reason to believe that domestic passengers will be worse off, or paid less in the event of such eventualities.

Sir, there have been some issues raised about providing a level playing field. There is some distinction between first class, Executive class and Economy class travel. I think, that at least is not an issue where we have been able to bring about unanimity. In any class of travel, a passenger is termed as equal. Whether it is loss due to accident, or injury or death or any other kind of compensation, it would not be given on different terms. But I think, on that point we should all be quite sensitive about. Shri Suresh Prabhu mentioned about the same issue about compensation to the domestic sector. I would say that the issue, as I mentioned, would possibly be notified by the Government of India through a separate notification.

Sir, Shri Mehtab raised the issue of the Fifth Jurisdiction that has been added in the Montreal Convention. I would say that it is more of a passenger-friendly measure as now the passengers would be able

[Shri Praful Patel]

to file their claims in the country of their domicile. In case one is travelling to the United States or to Europe and the airlines meet with an accident in that country, then he or she need not be worried that he or she can get the compensation, or can be paid or reimbursed only if he or she files the claim in that country, otherwise it would be difficult. Otherwise, it would be very difficult. If a passenger is visiting the United States just for a week or 15 days, you cannot expect that he goes back to the US or engages a lawyer in the United States to be paid compensation by the United States Carrier. That would be probably defeating the purpose of the entire exercise or the legislation. Therefore, in this provision, the fifth jurisdiction has been added in the Montreal Convention where a passenger can file for compensation within the country of her or his domicile. A passenger from our country would be better off by filing for compensation in our own country.

I think on the other issues which have been raised in terms of the amount of compensation and so on, I have been able to answer. But I would also like to say on the delay and related issues which have been mentioned by some Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: There are apprehensions relating to domestic fare hike.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would also like to say that this is not going to lead to any impact on the fares within our country because the compensation issue is not going to have any impact at least on the air fares within our country as some apprehensions have been raised by some hon. Members. I feel that on the overall issues, there can be always scope for improvement. These can always be taken up by the Government of India in its deliberations at the International Civil Aviation Organization. We have a representative in ICAO. These issues which hon. Members have raised in terms of further improvements to this legislation can certainly be taken up by them.

I do not agree with some Members when they raised about the compensation when the passenger is at the domestic terminal or when it is not within the

scope of the aircraft. I think the airlines cannot be forced to pay compensation for something which is beyond their control. After all, the airlines becomes liable only when the passenger enters the aircraft or if the area is within the control of the airlines. Therefore, those issues where passengers should be compensated even if they are at the airports or the terminals may not be proper because, as I said, ultimately this has to be guided by the International Agreement and the Montreal Convention. It has been precisely passed because everybody agreed to that kind of an issue.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you Sir, one point. He said that it will be within the control of the airlines. Suppose the airlines go out of control due to a technical snag and land in a habitation or a village where people may die there, then what will be done?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: As I said, there are some more issues which have been raised by hon. Members like the one you have raised. We can certainly put it up to international body for further consideration but today, what we are seeking to ratify is something which has been agreed by the Montreal Convention. Ultimately, we cannot pass a legislation in isolation. It has to be agreed by everybody and, as I pointed out, whatever issues which are extraneous of this legislation can also be taken up for future consideration with an appropriate body at the level of ICAO and future deliberations can be held in this regard. I fully respect that and certainly all the issues which have been raised by hon. Members even if they are beyond the scope of this legislation will also be taken up for consideration at future deliberations of the international body.

17.00 hrs.

I would also just like to quickly reply to some of the issues related to safety and security because hon. Members have raised questions about them. I would just like to state one thing very categorically that air travel in India is as safe as it can be anywhere else. I am talking of advanced countries like the United States of America and Western Europe, where there is high density of air traffic. I would like to assure the entire

House and, through you all, to the entire nation that air travel in India is very well regulated in terms of safety and security. We follow international protocol. The International Civil Aviation Organisation conducts audits of all member-States, including India. On most parameters of safety, India has got very high ranking.

In fact, I would like to commend the Director General of Civil Aviation and all other people who are manning these installations, including Air Traffic Control, about which my friend Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav and some other hon. Members were highly critical, that in spite of so much of air traffic which has built up within the country, the sky in our country is definitely safe and there is no reason for anybody to be alarmed.

I would also like to say one more thing.

[Translation]

Just now you were saying that we have to spend from one to two hours extra in aeroplanes. The planes hovering over the airports, I would like to say that this is also a sign of progress. Had this sector not been promoted so much, probably then, you would not have faced such a situation. I would like to tell you that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lakshman Singh, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Shri Lakshman Singh, you are my dear friend. You have travelled all over the world. I have been to almost all the airports across the world in the recent past. So are you. Whether it is New York or London airport you have to wait on the ground or in the air for hours together for landing or for take off. So, let us not be wholly critical. It is a new phenomenon in our country.

[Translation]

Earlier it was not so. There was no congestion at that time. There were a few flights, so there was no

question of congestion. During the last few years we have allocated more money for the purpose of infrastructure. Therefore, it is unfair to say that we are ignoring it. We are paying more attention towards infrastructure at present. ...*(Interruptions)* He should be happy that we have not restricted it to Mumbai. Delhi or a few selected other cities. A terminal of international standards is being constructed in Aurangabad also, which is in his constituency, therefore, he should not complain in this regard. Many hon'ble Members have raised matters concerning their areas. Shri Shailendra Kummar and Shri Kashiram have spoken. The work with regard to construction, expansion and modernization of airports is going on in the constituencies of many hon'ble Members. I won't say that everything has been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Nothing has been done in Patna, Tell something about it.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I did not say so. In Patna, you have your own problems because we are not getting land there. We want land in Patna. Shahnawazji is present here, he hails from there, Ruddyji and Shri Sharad Yadavji also hail from there. I am not leveling allegations against anybody. I feel that they would have taken up the works related to their home state had they been able to do so. But they could not undertake it. There might be some reasons behind it. Why? ...*(Interruptions)* I have told you that I am not leveling any allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete the reply, then speak.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Since, the hon'ble Minister has mentioned my name, therefore, I am speaking. We had acquired the land available there for expanding the runway. But there is a grave yard adjacent to it, which cannot be acquired. Ram Kripalji did not mean that no development work has taken place there, He just wants to know whether there is a proposal to set up airport at some other place? An airport has been constructed in Gaya. Since Since the hon'ble Minister is from Maharashtra, he is much concerned about Maharashtra. These days the people of Maharashtra are

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

in great love with Bihar. I would like to know whether he is concerned about Bihar.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would like to request you because it is your Government in Bihar. Such is our information. ...*(Interruptions)* On the basis of this information, I would request you to call a meeting there at the earliest and invite all the people. We will come there and so will Laluji and Ram Kripalji.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: You have never visited Bihar ever since you become the Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I have gone there many times.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I am behalf of Bihar, invite you for the inauguration of Gaya airport. The Government of Bihar is fully prepared to give you the land after patch up with the Chief Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Shahnawazji, I appreciate your sentiments and I also understand your feelings about Bhagalpur. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I am not allowing it.

(Interruptions)...*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish that there were more airports in our country. A few weeks back, the Union Cabinet had approved a policy under which more airports including green field airports are proposed to be constructed. Under the scheme there is also a provision to make operational those small and private airports which lie in disuse. I wish that my

colleague Shahnawazji, through the Government of Bihar invited tender or identified any partner for establishment of a joint venture company. They may get this work done by the State Government and if in doing so they face any difficulty, we, on behalf of the Union Government, are ready to lend a helping hand and resolve all the queries put by him and Ram Kripalji. I wish that he regularly visited Bhagalpur from Delhi by air in future and was not forced to make a detour to Gondiya. I would not like to say anything more.

My colleague Shahnawazji has raised one more issue, which is about the construction of new airports and the closure of old airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad. I would just like to remind him that the tenders for the construction of the aforesaid airport were invited under the provision of the same column, which was probably accorded approval during his tenure. In this column, it had been stated that as soon as the new airports are constructed the old one will be closed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address to the Chair. This is not fair.

[*Translation*]

Let the reply be completed.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to tell him that there was no such passenger load when we had invited tenders at that time. But today there is a rise in passenger load, so the old airports should also be made operational.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Yes, it is a fact and you are aware of this fact because you also had been a Minister in Government of India. Therefore, you know that the Government have some limitations and contractual obligations as well. You will have to keep even these things in your mind. We want some way out. Therefore, we have brought in such a new policy for the construction of new airports in which the main

*Not recorded.

emphasis is on the development of more and more infrastructure. Big cities should not be restricted to having only one airport. You have rightly said that the passenger load has increased today. Large number of people now prefer to go by air. So, we will definitely have to pay more attention towards it. We are happy that you have shown us the path on which we are not only moving ahead but also tried to sprint ahead. I extend my thanks to you for this. I am not saying that you do not deserve the congratulation but at the same time, I am also grateful to you for giving me congratulations for my walking on your path.

Sir, several hon'ble Members have expressed their sentiments about Haj. I appreciate and respect their feelings. This year some more unexpected problems cropped up at the time of Haj. As far as non-availability of Jam-Jam water to the Hajis is concerned, it was all due to some problems posed by the suppliers giving supply of this particular holy water to both the airlines-ours and the Saudi Arabian Airlines. It was not the issue of our airlines alone, but it was the problem posed by the supplier due to which we were not able to provide water to Hajis over there. I want to tell you that despite this difficulty we were able to bring Jam-Jam water by sending special aircrafts and give supply of it to the Hajis through Haj committees. There will be, now, no problem next year. Such a crisis never cropped up earlier. So, we will be cautious about such shortage in future. Next year in Haj season, we will be vigilant to ensure the timely availability of Jam-Jam water and other requirements. We learnt lessons from the experiences we had this year. On the basis of these experiences, we will be careful about all arrangements in advance. There used to be no problem like this earlier. Last year this unexpected problem cropped up. Our colleague Shahnawaz Hussain should be happy to know that this year the Government of India through their scheme have done the work of sending 1.10 lakh people on Haj in comparison to 72 thousand in the year 2004. Some problems arise with increase in number. But with this we will try to be cautious in future so that there is no problem to the Hajis from next year.

Sir, several hon'ble Members have raised here the issues of various airports-be it in coimbtore, Madurai, Varanasi, Agra, Mathura or Vijayawada etc. About all these airports, I would like to say only that I will definitely make every possible effort in consistent with your feelings, for the economic as well as overall development of these areas and the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: Mr. Minister, what action you take against cancellation of flights?

[*Translation*]

You have said nothing about compensation against cancellation.

[*English*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: There are certain other rules which are there. This is a different legislation. There are the IATA guidelines for passengers to be compensated in case of cancellation of flights or delays of flights. There are other rules. They are governed under the IATA rules. This is under a different protocol because this has nothing to do with the issue of delayed flights or cancellation of flights. This is an issue of compensation. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: I am talking about cancellation of flights.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: That would certainly be covered under this. As you have rightly pointed out, about some issues which may not have been covered under this, we will definitely put those views in the future deliberations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

I would, therefore, say that this is a small but an important step in providing better services and better compensation to the air passengers. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Members and the entire House to support this bill in its passage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1	Short title and commencement
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Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3, for "2007", substitute "2008" (2)

(Shri Praful Patel)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-eighth", substitute "Fifty-ninth". (1)

(Shri Praful Patel)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.16 hrs.

NATIONAL JUTE BOARD BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take item no. 26 - Shri Shankersinh Vaghela.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Jute Board for the development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a National Jute Board for the development of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

17.17 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Madam Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. National Jute Board Bill, 2008 has been presented for getting it passed here with some amendments. I rise to put my views on this Bill. This is a good Bill which has been brought to obviate the hardships faced by lakhs of farmers and workers so far

and to improve the condition of their life. However, this Bill is a merger Bill as a whole. Earlier there were various councils, Boards and societies in the jute sector which have now been merged into a board constituting a National Jute Board and absorbing all their powers, funds and manpowers therein through this Bill. This board has been constituted by absorbing societies like Jute Manufactures Development Council (J.M.D.C.), National Centre for Jute Diversification (N.C.J.D.) etc. As I have said, there is a scope in jute sector, so this Bill has been brought for the development of this sector as well as for the welfare of the farmers and workers. While agreeing with the main spirit of the Bill, I would like to say that if it would not have been brought with some amendments to its provisions, it would have been the Bill of bureaucratic structure.

This National Jute Board, has the voice of neither the farmers nor the workers and nor the exporters and this Bill was enacted simply as a Bill of bureaucratic form. It is right that it has got some amendments but some amendments are yet to be made. That will definitely be made in future. As I said, this Bill is of bureaucratic form constituting a board comprising about 20 members, among whom are a total of 6 members from the jute industries—two each from organized sector, decentralised sector and the exporters—and the rest 14 are the Government officials. If such a board is constituted, there will be no welfare for the farmers and the workers. After all, board is constituted for the development of the sector. Now-a-days jute is such an item that we call it golden fibre and the golden fibre is such an item that can boost the economy and generate employment in the country and we can earn large amount of foreign exchange by exporting jute products. Such is the potential of jute sector. But, there was no development as well as improvement in this sector as it deserved, and now this has been brought before us in the form of a bureaucratic structure, so I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that there should be some amendments to it. There should be majority of jute farmers, jute workers, jute industries or the exporters on the board comprising 20 members. If they do not have the majority, the Board will predominantly consist of the same Government officials like Secretary, Joint

Secretary, Directors from various departments like Agriculture or Food and Public Distribution who will prevail over them by using their arbitrary powers, and thus continue to stifle the progress of the jute sector or they have done in the past. When N.D.A. Government was in power, we had drafted a proposal for constituting a Technology Mission on Jute on the lines of Technology Mission on Cotton, which has been very much successful. Its success can be estimated by the production of 100, 110 and 120 lakh bales of crop at present in Gujarat registering 3-4 times increase in its earlier production of 40-44 lakh bales over there. Its credit goes to Technology Mission on Cotton. Keeping in view this thing we had brought a proposal constituting Technology Mission on Jute, but the Government was no more in power, so nothing happened about it later. Today the sufferers are none other than the jute farmers and the jute workers.

In my opinion, the benefits will reach this sector only when the democratic structure of the proposed board is ensured. In the Bill, in its present form says that the Textile secretary would be the Chairman of the proposed board and with regard to the Vice Chairman the provision made, is that:—

[English]

"The Board shall elect from among its members a Vice-Chairman who shall exercise such powers and perform such of the functions of the Chairperson as may be prescribed or as may be delegated to him by the Chairperson."

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister, my suggestion is that the Vice Chairman should be elected from amongst the members representing the farmer, workers but not from amongst all of the rest of the members. I have a lurking apprehension that Vice Chairman may be appointed from among the members representing Government in the Board. Hon'ble Minister will have to keep this thing in his mind. It will have a Government official, the Secretary as its Chairman. If the Vice Chairman is also the Government official, then, there will be no one to

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

raise the voice of the farmers or the workers, So, such a kind of amendment should be made in it.

Number three, it has been stated that there will be three members from amongst the Members of Parliament.

[English]

"Two shall be elected from among themselves by the Members of the House"

[Translation]

Two shall be from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha. It is okay, but how many delegates shall be representing our farmers who are millions in numbers? It has been stated that three members shall be elected from amongst the farmers. Among them one member shall be from West Bengal. Jute crop is grown there and there has been much Jute activity in West Bengal. Two members shall be elected from other states where jute crop is grown or jute activities are being carried out. I want to ask to why only three members shall be elected from amongst the farmers? Among twenty members, the majority belongs to the Government only on the other hand there are million of Jute farmers and jute activities are being carried out in many States. New jute mills are also being set up. Farmers are also working hard to raise the jute crops. I, therefore, would like to say that there should be more representation of the farmers. Earlier we assumed that it was only the state of West Bengal or Bihar where there is production of Jute, but now-a-days the States like Orissa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also undertaking jute activities and producing jute on large scale. Farmers of these states are making efforts to increase these activities. Jute mills are being set up there. Recently, I visited Orissa where new technologies of jute mills are coming up. People are setting up jute mills over there instead of Kolkata. However, jute industry has its own history. I do not want to go into details due to the constraint of time. By the way, among all the jute mills of our country mostly had been in West Bengal, but in

the wake of the partition of the country to most of the crop areas of the state have now been in Bangladesh where there is good production of jute today. I will come to this point later.

I want to say that jute activity is being carried out in many states today. The farmers producing other crops earlier are now coming forward to raise the jute crop. As has been stated in this Amendment Bill, there will be only three members each from amongst the jute farmers and the jute workers, but I would like to say that this number should be increased by giving more representation to the jute industry in the Board.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kanshiramji, we have to take up 'Half-an-hour discussion'. How much more time will you take now? You may continue it on Monday.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam Chairman, I would like to request that though as far now, half an hour discussion may be taken up however, after half an hour, the discussion on this bill should be resumed.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It cannot be done. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): It is not possible.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Why is it not possible? We often do this. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is a very important Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Bansalji, if the House agrees, then it is different thing however, nobody is agreeing to this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam, Chairman, there is four days' break and we have got our seats reserved in trains. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam Chairman, I am making a request. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Bansalji is making a request. First, let me listen to his request. Later, I will think over it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We often sit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The discussion on this Bill will not be completed in a short time, it is a very important Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am submitting that we should continue discussion on this Bill ...*(Interruptions)* I am not forcing and asking to wind up the discussion, in a hurry. I am as king, only this that we should take up this bill again after the half an hour discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The discussion on this Bill will not be completed today so we should take up this Bill on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)* By the way, we do not have much Government business. Left with us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Ranaji, we have business...*(Interruptions)* I am making this request. This is the practice in the House.

[English]

Once there is a request from the Government's side, it is normally considered by the House.

[Translation]

A few days back we were sitting upto 9 O'clock in the night. Then, the hon'ble Members of that side requested and we accepted their request. Now, I am requesting to continue the discussion on this bill. It is not matter of making a request out of way. In the case of other bill, the Members wanted that the House should

run upto 9 O'clock. The hon'ble Members requested for time and we granted them time. ...*(Interruptions)* Rasa Singhji, what are you talking of For many things you wanted that the House should run upto 8 O'clock, thereafter you kept on demanding for the 'Zero Hour.' ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Bansalji, why are you getting so agitated. First, let us hold half an hour discussion, We will see the mood of the House at 6 O'clock. If the House agree and then Kashiramji will continue.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Madam Chairman, we can have it on Monday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Probably, Kashiramji wants to leave, so first let him finish, then we will start it. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to request that we should complete discussion on it today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kashiramji, you please finish your speech. You are on your legs. As for now, we should hold half an hour discussion and at six o'clock we will proceed as per the mood of the House, otherwise we will take up it on 5th.

[English]

You will continue afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Theri, There will be no quorum at six O'clock ...*(Interruptions)*

17.34 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION Implementation of the NREGS

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Madam Chairman. Already five minutes have passed; I think we need another five minutes to conclude to Half-an-Hour discussion!

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I am thankful that the Speaker has allowed this issue to be discussed, and both the Ministers are present here. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is termed as the only successful flagship Programme of the UPA Government. Media reports that the scheme has provided jobs to only 3 per cent of those eligible, that it has led to colossal waste and diversion of funds and, that it is a corrupt and inefficient exercise.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's Performance Audit of Implementation of NREGA, 2005 has made stringent remarks. The main focus of that report is on the lack of the administrative capacity to run this scheme in a decentralized manner and there is a need to build capacity quickly and effectively.

NREGA cannot realise its full potential if implemented within the same moribund structure of governance that has characterised rural India since independence.

Every State Government was required to appoint in each Block a full-time Programme Officer exclusively dedicated to the implementation of this NREGS with necessary support staff. It is reported by C and AG that 19 States have not appointed these Officers in 70 per cent of the Blocks it surveyed. The existing BDOs have been appointed with an additional charge. Unfortunately, NREGS is not a Scheme that can work on an 'additional charge' basis.

An Employment Guarantee Assistant (EGA) was to be appointed in each Gram Panchayat in view of the pivotal role of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. According to the C and AG Report, 52 per cent of the 513 Gram Panchayats it surveyed had not approved EGAs. Neither accredited engineers have been appointed at the District level nor any others at the Block level.

C and AG also found that the panel is missing in as many as 20 of the States it studied. The State Governments were also to appoint Technical Resource Support Groups at the State and District levels to assist in planning, design, monitoring, evaluation, quality audit,

training and handholding. C and AG Report found that 23 States have not set up such Groups in the State and District levels. The shortage of staff leads to delays in execution of works and payment of wages, and I hope, the Minister will agree with me.

Madam, the most neglected area in the implementation of the Programme is ensuring 'accountability' and 'transparency'. Performance of NREGS shows instances of corruption and inefficiency in its implementation. Barely 3.2 per cent of the registered households could avail themselves of 100 days of employment in the first year. They received employment for just 18 days. As against an average income of about Rs. 8,000 per annum, rural households received less than Rs. 1,500 per year.

According to the C and AG Report, 14 States did not have proper records. The main cause of failure of NREGS is poor governance. As the system is demand-based, the only incentives for good implementation were local political pressure and the honesty of bureaucracy, which was lacking throughout.

I would like to draw the attention of this House about the C and AG Report, in which it is stated that in West Bengal, about Rs.38.50 lakh cost was incurred for 20 works that did not exist. In Jharkhand, on the recommendation of six MLAs, 71 projects costing about Rs.5.14 crore were there but none was approved by the Gram Sabha and included in the Annual Plan.

In my State, Orissa, a sum of Rs. 11,521 was disbursed to seven deceased persons showing engagement even after their death. Another amount of Rs. 44,852 was paid to daughters of the labourers who were living in a different area.

Therefore, I would like to know whether NREGS is facing difficulties in implementation because of the lack of professionals. That is number one.

Ultimately, the Central Government is determining the policy and the States, Blocks and Gram Panchayats are the implementing agencies. So, I would like to know what policy the Government is making so that the State

Governments do have full time programme officers in place. I would also like to know whether the Government agree to a view that documentation and procedural requirements of NREGA has made it unattractive. If so, what steps the Government intends to take so that this demand-driven scheme is not confined to the likes or dislikes, or interest or disinterest of the District Magistrate, but more people-oriented and more Panchayati Raj Institutions are involved.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairman, in regard to the question raised by hon'ble Member, Shri Mehtab about National Rural Employment Guarantee programme, I would like to submit that this programme was implemented in some districts of the country on trial basis. Beside all sorts of difficulties, it was also found that the job cards for all the beneficiaries are not being prepared and at some places 'Pradhans' of the villages keep job cards of other persons with themselves instead of giving them to the persons concerned and the scheme is not being implemented as per the norms. Along with, this payment is not being made in time as has been pointed out by hon'ble Mehtabji. Rs. 5 crore were released for Kada block of my Parliamentary constituency but only Rs. 2.5 crore were given to the block where as 50 per cent amount should be given to Gram Sabha, 25 per cent to block and 25 per cent to the district. Thus irregularities are being committed on a large scale. A central team should be sent there to hold an inquiry in this regard because local officers are trying to cover up entire embezzlement and are transferring the entire amount of that scheme to please the Minister and the people's representatives. When I myself asked the commissioner, Allahabad, he held an inquiry and in course of inquiry, irregularities were found, however, no action has been taken as yet in this regard. I would like to know whether the Government propose to hold an inquiry in this regard by sending a central team.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri C.K. Chandrappan—not present.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat please ask your question in brief.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam, earlier this scheme was implemented in 12 districts in Rajasthan and now it has been implemented in all 32 districts of Rajasthan with effect from first April. However, I am very sorry to say that only Rs. 62 crore have been received from the Central Government. Rs. 263 crore are yet to be paid for these 32 districts. Out of Rs. 62 crore, Rs. 30 crore have been given for the administrative expenditure to be incurred on implementing the said scheme in 20 districts. Now, one month has elapsed and the labourers are waiting for one week that they will get their payment at the rate of Rs. 100 per day, but how will they get it. Their accounts have been opened in post offices and banks, however, money has not been deposited in their account. How they will get payment? Through you, I would like to ask as to who is responsible for the financial crisis created for REGS scheme in Rajasthan and the time by which the money payable to the labourers will be given to Rajasthan and what guidelines are being issued by the Government for ensuring systematic and smooth implementation of this scheme in future.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Madam, when this scheme was not implemented in the country, at that time, SGRY was running in the year 2005-2006 and for that, the annual budgetary grant was Rs. 18000 crore. This year, it has been reduced to Rs. 16,000 crore. Has it not been curtailed? It is a need based programme as has also been pointed out by hon. Mahtabji. However, from the filed observation it appears that collectors have arbitrarily converted it into a criteria based programme. I would like to know whether the Government propose to prescribe any norms in this regard and issue circular that the work will be provided to those people only who approach for jobs. This is third year since this scheme is in operation in the country. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of persons who have been given unemployment allowance so far out of those persons who could

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

not be provided with jobs under this scheme especially in Orissa.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, during our discussion on the Demand for Grants, this point about the minimum wage was already raised here. Still, I am raising this matter, and I think the Minister will satisfy us.

The minimum wage of the labour varies from State to State. So, whether this Department is contemplating any meeting at the national level so that there should be uniformity in the national minimum wage?

Another point is about the norms of productivity or the stipulation of work. I met the hon. Minister, and I wrote a letter to him about the stipulation of the earthwork. It is so hard that for a labour it is very difficult to execute. So, whether they will go to relax or examine this matter so that the labourers can do their work? Thank you.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Madam, I want to say only one line.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do you want to put a question? You put only question but not a single line more than the question.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: All right.

Though the Member of Parliament is the Head of the Vigilance Committee in every district, the norm is that if minimum 60 per cent is spent by the district, then he will receive the second installment. But to achieve that 60 per cent, the agency is not there. Now the Ministry wants online communication. In certain districts like Kalahandi and Nuapada, the online communication was established just two or three months back. We have not received our second installment. After the National Food-for-Work Scheme is merged with the NREGS, whether this component of food will also be included in your programme or not?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Madam Chairman, I am thankful to all the hon'ble Members for showing their interest and sincerity in asking questions about the employment guarantee scheme. The way it is being looked to all over the world it indicates its success all over the country. It is, definitely, making progress.

Madam, Mahtabji made a mention of CAG report. I do not know whether the hon'ble Members are aware or not about our persistent efforts in urging CAG to go and investigate the scheme. In the normal course, investigation is made after every two-four years as per the provisions contained in the constitution. So, there is no use of carrying out its post mortem afterwards. That is why, we requested to go and investigate the scheme wherever it has been implemented in the first phase. Recently, there is news report about the leakage of the draft publication but that has not been finalized so far.

It was our view that initially people in the states might have little knowledge about it or malafide information may be there. So, I had requested the CAG to investigate the irregularities and reveal the some so that the States could be asked to be vigilant and bring about reforms and create awareness among the people. With the CAG submitting its report states were also asked to investigate the irregularities on their own and bring about reforms therein. After receiving the complaints from other districts, CAG has looked into the matter to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities.

Secondly, it has been stated that the programme is not achieving its objectives. It means that they do not go through the letters and reports, containing details furnished to them and laid in the House in its every session indicating the progress and the status in this regard for which. I am sorry.

So far 3.37 crore families have been provided employment by creating 141 crore mandays in 303 districts. Wage employment programme has not been implemented as a new scheme, but it has been there for the last 30 years under the various schemes such

as Food for work. NREP, RLEGP, Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and so on for the light as well as strenuous works in order to save the people from starvation, deaths, fight famine, provide employment to the people as well as prevent the distressed from inigration in the country. The main feature of this scheme is that it provides for the legal right for 100 days' work in a year, so this is a major step in the direction of 'Right to Work'. On account of this, we have calculated that apart from BPL families, 25% more families have got jobs under the said programme. Hon'ble Kashiram Rana has also been a Minister. In his tenure, 60 or 65 crore mandays were created under SGRY. Expenditure was incurred on both foodgrains and wages paid. But now 141 crore mandays have been created in 330 districts and this will go upto 200-300 crore mandays if it is implemented in all the districts. About 500 crore families will get employment in this way. Even the APL families living around the poverty line will also get benefits from it. It is, therefore, wrong to say that there will be injustice to the poor or it is not achieving its objectives and it is making no progress etc.

They spoke about the appointment of employees. No Government in the country has ever done as this government did for the appointment of employees. It has provision for appointment of one additional Rojgar Sewak in each Panchayat for which salary will be paid by the Government of India. It has the provision for appointing one Technical Engineer for every five panchayats for which salary will be paid by the Government of India. There is also a provision for appointing one programme officer at par with the BDO for which salary will be paid by the Government of India. At the same time, there is also a separate fund for the expenditure to be incurred on the head of accounts and computerization, training etc. Now States have their own capacity and resources. I will explain to you later as to what is the situation in a particular state. But the States with the efficient Governments have done all these things with immediate effect. However, there are many state Governments that have not made appointments because of complexity of planning, finance etc. However, lakhs of employees and officials have been appointed

and they are now working. It must not have been effected in those states where the Governments are taking no interests in all these things or whose financial condition is poor or where there is lack of planning or they are pretending to employ through the Planning Commission.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): There are 24 such State Governments.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: No, it is wrong. I will provide the figure.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This is in the CAG report.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: 11 State Governments have done these because they are efficient. We support, co-operate and advise the state Governments. We arrange four meetings in a year i.e. quarterly. We organize regular workshops. We are writing letters to Chief Ministers. We have written four-five letters. We keep on writing letters to the hon'ble Members also. A regular meeting of District Vigilance Monitoring Committee headed by local MP is held there quarterly and an inquiry is held and action is taken in respect of any irregularity which takes place. I do not claim that with the implementation of employment guarantee scheme, all the officials, employees and the public representatives of the country have become satyawadi Harishchandra or the followers of Mahatma Gandhi. No one can believe it. However this is for the first time when there is the provision for public, participation, awareness, understanding, close monitoring and transparency in the employment guarantee scheme. It is completely transparent scheme having checks on irregularities. It is all due to collective efforts. So, it is wrong to say that there is complete mismanagement in a particular state or district. It depends on panchayats. Where the public representatives are doing well and there is awareness among the people, the result is better there. Somewhere Collector is functioning well, so the result is better over there. But, what can one do where the Collector himself is involved in irregularities? So, there is the need of co-operation from the hon'ble Members to plug all these loopholes wherever they exit. We have written to hon'ble Member several times and

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

sought informations about such panchayats where there is no proper implementation of the scheme. Then, we take up the matter with the State Government concerned and tell them such are the complaints received from the hon'ble Members and ask as to what action has been taken by them in this regard. However, action has been taken and people have been arrested. For example, in Chhattisgarh pesticides were purchased with the fund of NREGS. As soon as it came to my notice, immediate action was taken by suspending the release of fund and transferring the Collector. Omissions and commissions, mismanagement, irregularities are coming to notice and action is being taken accordingly, but for that, there is an urgent need of awareness and public participation to deal with all these things.

We have written to IIMs, IITs, Agricultural Universities, UGC and all the institutes associated with the rural development activities to participate and study the scheme and get all the relevant information about its impact and assessment. We are receiving good response from all these quarters. Vice-Chancellors, Directors of these institutes have shown their interests to take initiatives and participate in the employment guarantee scheme. There may be problems in the beginning due to lack of knowledge. We told the State Governments that there were 34 lakh public representatives. Panchayati Raj has the principal role in its implementation. They know these things. Members say that the people are not going to work under this scheme. They prefer to work where there they get more money. This scheme has been formulated to prevent the distress migration of the people. Suppose, one gets Rs. 60, 70, 80 at one place and the same person gets Rs. 150 at another place, why will he not go to another place to work? This scheme has been brought to ensure 100 days work in a year. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Members to have full information about it and go to the spot to see as to what is its actual benefit that accrued to the beneficiaries. They should tell us and also to the State Governments as to what are the drawbacks in the scheme. It is the Members who will ask the State Governments about these drawbacks. We cannot ask

about them direct from the State Governments because of the federal structure. If we do so, Members will rise to oppose us by saying that we are doing like this only because it is their Government in the State. Whenever a complaint is received, we ask the State Government as to what action it has taken. Sometimes, we use the system of National Level Monitoring, introduced by Shri Ranaji. After receiving information, we suggest the State Government to take action as some wrong doing has been found. We remind them time and again. Sometimes we criticize the Government and sometimes we encourage it for doing good work.

I have given reply of all those questions which had been raised by the hon'ble Members. Shri Shailendraji has said that there has been some irregularity in respect of job cards. We should also be made aware as to what action is being taken in the District Vigilance Monitoring Committee. Is there any such complaint on which action is required to be taken by the Government of India? Even if a single case of irregularity is sent that needs action we immediately approach the State Government and intimate it that our hon 'ble Member has given this information and why no action has been taken in this regard. The co-operation of hon'ble Members is necessary in this regard. Without their co-operation, this work can not be successful. In the country, there is no one except the hon'ble Members who can point out such wrong doings. An officer looks after the work of 40 districts. There are 40 officers for 600 districts. How could 2 lakh officers work in 6 lakh villages of the country?

18.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is 6 O'clock. We extend the proceedings of the House till the hon'ble Minister completes his reply. We will continue business on the remaining Bills on Monday.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I request all Members to give information in writing and also intimate the State Governments if they have specific information. Then we can ask them as to why such a thing is happening. We will also inform our hon'ble Member about the outcome of the investigation.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawatji has raised the question of funds. We have sent the money in lumpsum. However, what he is saying is also right. Since the budget was passed on 1st of April, therefore, we will implement it from 1st April only. There was Vote on Account. An amount of Rs. 4000 crore was disbursed among all the States. I accept that demands of the States have been received. However, it will take a week's time to fulfil those demands as we have passed the Finance Bill recently. We have received only 1/6th of the funds through Vote on Account. We will ensure that there is no shortage of funds. We are making adequate provision in the budget so as to mitigate all the problems. We felt some difficulties when it was enforced for the first time. At that time, we had a budget of Rs. 11,600 crore and there was an expenditure of Rs. 8600 crore. We were able to save two and a half thousand crore rupees in the beginning. We extended the scheme from 200 districts to 330 districts and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 12,800 crore last year. The hon'ble Member raised a question as to why this year the budget has been cut down by Rs. 16,000 crore. This question has been raised by Shri Dharmendraji. I think you have not listened to the speech of the hon'ble Finance Minister seriously ...(*Interruptions*). He has said that there is a demand. We immediately made a provision of Rs. 16,000 crore. We would provide funds, whatever be the expenditure. Now, we shall have to tread cautiously. As soon as an expenditure of Rs. 12,000 crore is incurred, we shall become cautious. It seems to me that the supplementary budget will be presented in the July session. We have been assured from all levels. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: When the funds for Rajasthan will be released?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singhji, please don't interrupt.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You have asked as to when the funds for Rajasthan will be released. Yesterday, the Finance Bill had been passed. It will take 5-7 days after it is sent to the President. After receiving it, we will release the funds the next day. At all places we have sent the funds on 1st of April.

We have released the funds sanctioned under the budgetary provisions in the House on 1st of April itself. As soon as sanction is accorded, we will leave no room for insufficiency of funds.

Dharmendraji made a demand for unemployment allowance. However, I would like to say that there is no need to give unemployment allowance if job is provided to people. Unemployment allowance has been given to people in Batwani district of Madhya Pradesh and in one of the districts of Uttar Pradesh. In those districts, the NGOs became active and helped people. As per the law, the State Government has to give unemployment allowance to people. However, the State Government does not give unemployment allowance to people on one pretext or the other. Hence, you are requested to instruct the State Government in this regard.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: We will certainly ask them to do so.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is the responsibility of the State Government and the key for making it a success lies in this clause. If the Central Government had taken the onus of providing unemployment allowance, then the entire population of our country would have got themselves registered for getting unemployment allowance and nothing would have come out of it. Therefore, we are trying to create awareness. There will be no need to provide unemployment allowance if jobs are provided to people by the State Governments. That clause is to ensure that it is implemented properly. A penal clause is also included therein that the Government would provide job and in case it does not, it will provide penalty in the shape of unemployment allowance. It is an enabling provision and the quientessence of this law. When the people will be made aware, they will be provided job within 15 days, however, for this there is a need to make planning and arrangement in this regard. Rs. ten lakh have been provided to each district separately for formulating perspective plan, self-projects so that work is carried out. These were the two points raised by them.

Sir, Shri Prabodh Pandaji has raised the question

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

of minimum wages. When this scheme was launched, after a law to this effect was passed, the minimum wage was Rs. 25/- in Nagaland and Rs. 125 in Kerala, while it was around Rs. 40 in the North-East. The wages varied from state to state like in some states it was Rs. 45 while in other states the wages were 47, 54, 65, 70, 75, 80, 90 and Rs. 125. There were variations in the wages in the country, the schedule of rates varied from district to district. At that time the economists approached us and suggested that uniform wages should be made applicable throughout the country. For this, we asked them as to how much amount should we fix as minimum wages. If we fix Rs. 60 or 80 as minimum wage, then the states, where the minimum wages are more than Rs. 60 or 80, will raise objection. Similarly, the states, where the minimum wages are less than this, will also raise objection. However, we will have no objection if there is consensus among all the State Governments with regard to minimum wages. The law with regard to minimum wages as passed by this August House provides that the Section-3 of the existing Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the states, which ensures the agricultural wages therein, shall also apply to the wages under NREGS. Since we have to look after the interests of the farmers also as some of the State Governments are not looking after their interest and have become revolutionary, the Government of India are giving 100% labour component. In Uttar Pradesh, the minimum wages have been increased from Rs. 63 to 80 and from 80 to 100 in two months, hyper inflation is being witnessed. Minimum Wages Act is already in existence in the country but it is not being enforced by every State. So far we have not made any changes in the minimum wages on behalf of the Union Government. We have left on the State Governments to fix their minimum wages since they have to implement it. Suppose, if we request the State Government to increase the minimum wages, then the State will say as to what would happen to our farmers and our developmental schemes which are being run by us as funds are limited. While in those States where the minimum wages are more, if we ask them to lower the minimum wages, then the States will object by saying

that it is their minimum wage, and our intervention is uncalled for. So far we have not made any changes in the minimums wages. Leftists are experts, they should suggest some solution so that a consensus could be evolved and we have no objection to it. We are making effort to ensure that the interests of farmers are protected and there should be no exploitation of workers too. We do not find it practical to fix uniform minimum wages in all the States as in some States the soil is hard, in some States the soil is soft and in some States it is rocky, that is why there is variation in schedule of rates and that is the reason why we have said that we will not interfere in this as it does not seem practical. Shri B. K. Deoji was speaking about the vigilance committee.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: At the time of submission of report, most of the districts have not been connected on-line like Kalahandi and Naopada, due to which the second instalment, which should have been released to them could not be released. Food component has got mixed, food component has got mixed with national food for work. NREGA programme. The people want rice against the wages, will you be able to implement it or not?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, the provisor. under food for work and SGRO has been made, the scheme which is befitting under NREGA will continue and would be completed, but it should be taken up according to the provisions of Employment Guarantee Act. But there is no provision of food. We can look into it afterwards. It is being said in regard to wages.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It has not been provided online.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are trying to provide online facility to all districts, but some places are still left. But we will not let them face any problem in transfer of funds due to absence of online facility. I am telling this to you.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is right.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now no more question, many questions have been raised on this matter. If you can summarize your question in one sentence, then ask.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): The meeting of Vigilance Monitoring Committee is held once in three months. The Member-Secretary of it should be Collector as per the ruling given by the Parliament. But in Maharashtra, C.E.O. of District Council has been appointed as the Member Secretary. Therefore, the Collector do not attend that meeting. I would like to make a request to you. I have mentioned it in a general meeting also. He said that he has ordered officers that only Collector should be its Member Secretary. If Collector is appointed as Member Secretary, he would be able to undertake all kinds of work, otherwise, the Collector do not attend the meeting, though this is under the rules. Therefore, Collector should be the Member Secretary in all districts of India and C.E.O. should be co-Member Secretary.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is right. We have directed the State Government to appoint only Collector as the Member Secretary. However, some State Governments are putting ifs and buts on it. But if Collector is not appointed Secretary, the arena of that Committee gets reduced and it does not have command on the entire area. Therefore, I would like to tell those hon'ble Members who brought the issue to our notice, that we will again and again pressurize and request the States to essentially appoint Collector as the Member Secretary. It is right. We will provide information about his letter also.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Organise Shri Rahul Gandhi's tour over there, everything will be all right.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, it is not that politics is just for tours. I would like to submit that this scheme is for the poor and this scheme is for metamorphosing the country. Since permanent assets are going to be created, though many intellectuals say that is in the times to come, there would be a dire shortage of water, the world war will be fought for water and hue and cry will be created for water. The land

development of 2 lakh 62 thousand Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is taking place under which water conservation, watershed management, water management, flood proofing and drought proofing is being undertaken. The Adivasi people were asking for levelling of their land. The land of Adivasis was uneven, it was infertile. Now, the levelling of it is being done. I visited the fields of a Adivasi person in Jaspur district in Chattisgarh state and enquired about the crop that was likely to be cultivated after levelling. Then the person said that he will cultivate vegetables in it. Adivasis are saying that levelling of land should be undertaken and they are also working on it. Madam, therefore, it is going to fulfil its purposes and there are certain shortcomings also, we expect cooperation from hon'ble Members, State Governments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Intellectuals, social workers, experts, scientists etc. in implementing this scheme for poor, so that it may prove to be an effective measure in eradicating poverty. Checking starvation and distress migration to some extent are coming before us. I, myself have visited Dungarpur area of Rajasthan. Six check dams have been constructed on one river over there, the ground water is being tapped there for irrigation. A dam has been constructed on river flowing from Bhutan in Kokrajhar district of Assam. The people of fifty villages said that floods used to cause havoc every year and they are saved due to the miracle caused by Employment Guarantee Act. There are thousands of success stories and these success stories are being created in all places. Therefore, I expect from all hon'ble Members that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He wants to raise a question.

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The hon. Minister has given an exhaustive answer. There is one point which I would like to stress on for which I need an answer from the hon. Minister.

Now, all the districts of the country have been covered. There are many districts and many areas which are irrigated, where soil is not available for doing the work.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

For that reason, soil is being brought from 2, 3, 5 or even 10 kms. That is the position. My concern is whether the Government is going to consider this.

[Translation]

The components decided by the Government for earth work and other components is in 60:40 ratio. Can you make a specific area-wise policy so that there should be elasticity and flexibility to change the components in programmes as per the needs of specific area.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, it is true that the ratio of 60 per cent labour component and 40 per cent material component has been kept. But the special feature of it is that 60:40 ratio has been kept in view of considering entire district as one unit. It is not so that the ratio of 60:40 has to be maintained under one scheme only. In this manner, nothing can be achieved, the work will get hampered. Therefore, district has been considered a unit. Therefore, in some schemes the material component can be 90 per cent and 10 per cent could be the labour component. But at the same time, a scheme having 90 per cent labour component and 10 per cent material component can also be undertaken.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It will be maintained at 60:40 ratio in the district.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, Madam, therefore, programme coordinator has been appointed to look that. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen. Therefore, I am saying that a lot of information will emerge out of discussion on it. Many officers also fail to understand it. Therefore, the doubts in minds of those officers should be cleared, they should be made clear that 60:40 ratio is not in an individual scheme. District is the unit. It may also happen that a scheme may have labour component of 100 per cent without any material component. Whereas another scheme may have material component of 90 per cent, but in total district may have been considered as an unit.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Has any such instruction been issued from your side?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me and other hon'ble Members an opportunity to speak. There is no doubt that if people of entire country get informed and understand this popular legislation, then this scheme will become successful. While thanking all of you, I conclude my statement.

18.17 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th April, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th April, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 5th May, 2008.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 5, 2008/ Vaisakha 15, 1930 (Saka).

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377/14 (from below)	ADD (b) before The state – wise	

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