

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 17, 2006/Vaisakha 27, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform you about the sad demise of our former colleague, Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra.

Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977, representing Balasore Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1986 representing the State of Orissa.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Mohapatra was member of the Krishi Mantralaya Hindi Salahakar Samiti from 1973 to 1977 and Animal Welfare Board from 1975 to 1977.

A freedom fighter, Shri Mohapatra participated in the Quit India Movement.

Shri Mohapatra who took up journalism at an early age, was associated with several journals. A linguist, he was proficient in six languages. He was a visiting Professor in Jamia Milla Islamia, Delhi and in many educational institutions abroad.

Shri Mohapatra took keen interest in the socio-cultural activities and organised many national level literary, cultural and musical programmes. Shri Mohapatra was Chief Patron of many friendship societies with foreign countries. A trade unionist, he was also President and Secretary of several trade union organisations.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mohapatra visited many countries.

Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra passed away on 22 April 2006 at New Delhi at the age of 78, after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the demise of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolence to the bereaved family.

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

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Subbarayan, Q.No. 462.

Amendments in Indian Post Office Act, 1898

+
*462. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Postal Department has steadily lost business to courier companies;

(b) if so, the loss incurred during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has addressed the major issues like monopoly, tariff of services, extent of Universal Obligation Coverage etc. taking into account the latest development in the postal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 accordingly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The revenue of the Postal Department in respect of the postal business has been steadily increasing:

Revenue of Actual

(Rupees in Crores)

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sale of Stamps	989.90	981.04	894.67	798.66
Postage realized in cash	828.70	1017.35	1155.92	1297.11
Total	1818.60	1998.39	2050.59	2095.77

However, since there is no record of business done by the courier companies available in the Department of Posts, the information required in the question is not available with the Postal Department. Since courier companies are not registered, no information regarding their business is available with the Department of Posts.

(c) and (d) The Department of Posts has constantly been addressing the issues like its exclusive privilege of conveying letter by post from place to place, performing all incidental service, receiving, collecting, sending, dispatching and delivering of letters with some exceptions as per section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the tariff for services, its universal service obligation etc. regularly. It takes into account the latest developments in the postal sector.

(e) and (f) The Department of Posts wants to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to reflect the recent developments in the field of postal communications and information technology and to meet the expectations of consumers of postal services and products. The Department of Posts has drafted an amendment Bill and its draft proposals has been placed in the public domain "<http://www.indiapost.gov.in>" from 19.4.2006 for obtaining the views and comments of the public and the concerned parties upto 10.5.2006. The Department of Posts is now examining the various views and suggestions received.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, does the Government propose to make an assessment of the business of courier services and the labour force involved in them? Will the Government consider incorporating appropriate Section in the Postal Act to regulate the courier services?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the Government is in the process of bringing out an Act to regulate the courier services place in the country. In fact, they have submitted a draft Bill, which was kept in the public domain and is available on the website for public opinion. Sir, very soon we will be coming to this House with a Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister is in itself quite paradoxical. The Hon'ble Minister said "Revenue of Postal Department is steadily increasing". Thereafter he made a statement that sale of postal stamps has decreased. In 2003-04, the turnover of sale of stamps was in tune of Rs. 894 crores which in the year 2005 has come down to Rs. 798 crores. When the sale of postal stamps has come down, how can he say that revenue has increased. The earlier Government had taken a decision not to retrench the employees of the department of Post and let it function smoothly. So loan will be provided to the small and medium level farmers from Post Offices. A plan was formulated on these lines. I would like to know from him whether the said plan has been scrapped and if so the reasons therefor. Is he aware of this?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How is it connected with this question?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to run the Post office, Postal services...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway if he is ready, he can answer.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: He has asked a question based on my reply.

Sir, basically we have said that the sale of stamps, which was Rs. 989 crore in 2001-02 has become Rs. 798 crore in 2004-05. But actually what we do in the Post Offices is this. We also sell stamps through computer generated bills and also through franking machines. If the Member sees the second line, he will realize that it has been increasing. We have just given the total also, which shows the sale of actual stamps and also the

computer generated stamps, and it shows the correct increase. It is not true to say that the sale of stamps has totally decreased.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I compliment the Minister because after a long period he has been able to understand the problem arising out of downloading the service that was being done by the Post Office. It is good that he has thought of the post offices and the postal system. In the course of his reply, he has stated about meeting the expectations of the consumers of postal service and products. Therefore, meeting the expectations of consumers and postal service are in his mind. Now my question is this. There have been many problems with the Post Office such as lack of revenue, lack of jobs. It is good that the Government is coming up. But if you want to meet the expectations of the consumers, then along with this something more including the question of increasing the manpower needs to be done. I have my own experience of going to post office.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, there is a constant lack of manpower. If you are not taking note of that, then you will not be able to meet the expectations of the consumers.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? He wants to know whether you are going to take note of it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, Sir.
... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, definitely I will take note of the hon. Member's view....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Not at all. I have asked a question – whether he is going to increase the manpower. Sir, I am here for a long time. I know how to put a question. I have asked, whether he is going to take up the problem of lack of manpower... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. But there are some humble persons like me who can always understand it.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, we have right now about 5,40,334 employees in the Postal Department. I understand that there is a deficit amount of nearly Rs. 1,381 crore in the Postal Service. I also understand

that there has been a ban on new recruitment from 1985. Definitely I will take note of it when we try to process it.

(Translation)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that even today in the entire country, people of rural areas or hilly areas or tribal areas completely depend on Post Offices. There was a detailed discussion on this subject during the 'half an hour discussion'. In reply to today's question, it has been proposed to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to improve the function of Post Offices. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the amount earmarked for modernization and renewal of Post Offices in the current year and whether the Government have any plan to revive the closed Post Offices?

(English)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I will reply to the hon. Member's question separately...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want notice?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Now Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, in the reply of the hon. Minister it is mentioned that the Government is going to amend the existing Post Offices Act of 1898. It is also mentioned that the Government is aiming to rise up to the expectation of the consumers of the country. Yes, the hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta pointed out about the shortage of manpower. Without considering the problem of shortage of manpower, I would like to know how this Ministry is going to uphold the expectations of the consumers of the country. I would also like to know from the Minister, through you, Sir, whether by amending the existing Post Offices Act of 1898 the Government is aiming to privatise the postal services of the country to break their monopoly. So, these are the two questions that I would like to ask from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have answered the first question. Now you can answer the second part of the question.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I would like to give the answer to the hon. Member's question. The proposed

amendment, which we are bringing forward, is to regularise the courier services which are spreading in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself have been the hon. Chairman of the Standing Committee when the Bill was brought way back in 2002. The fact of the matter is that we are trying to protect the rights of the consumers because we have been getting more complaints that the courier services are not giving proper services to the consumers. We are trying to make sure that they are registered and we can also monitor the quality of service so brought out by the courier service which will also help the consumers at large. The main idea is also to make sure that the large courier services that have got turnover of Rs. 25 lakh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will they be regulated or regularised? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: They will be regularised. We are planning to regularise them and they are still not being regulated. We are only trying to regularise so that we can bring them under the spectrum and understand as to what is happening so that we make sure that the consumers benefit out of this regularisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hope that the Committee's Report will be read.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Definitely, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in the reply to the question said that there is no record of business done by the courier companies available in the Department of Post as the Courier Companies are not a registered lot. I would like to know whether the Government propose to register the various Courier Companies established in the country and to bring them under a regulatory authority? Do the Government propose to extend the Speed Post Services to various districts of the country especially in the block and district levels of the tribal areas?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked two questions. One question is regarding the courier service. The very purpose of bringing out a Bill is to make sure that we register all these courier companies and also to regularise them.

The other question relates to the Speed Post. The Government is definitely looking at possible areas where Speed Post is necessary. Speed Post at this point of time is more 'business to business' and is not 'person to person'. So, depending upon the demand, the Postal Department will take appropriate steps to improve the service.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the business of the private courier companies is limited particularly to big cities. In the small townships or villages with a population of 10-20,000, this service is provided through Post Offices and private courier service is not available there. Even in these small towns, due to lack of employees, the services of speed post and courier is not upto the required level. The hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that there is a ban on all the recruitments to Post Offices and new employees could not be appointed therein. In such a scenario, the onus is on the post offices where private courier service or speed post service is not available in such places. If they do not appoint employees to provide better postal services to people, then what type of service the Government propose to start in order to provide the people of those areas with efficient and speedy service? Today efforts are on to shut down many post Offices in such areas where there is an urgent need for setting up of new Post Offices. What are the plans of the Government to prevent shutting down of such post offices so that they can carry on with their business?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: To answer the hon. Member's question, I think, the post offices are doing a remarkable job. Last year, they have delivered more than 736 crore of articles which is roughly estimated to be around 2.45 crore articles per day. Moreover, there is no complaint that the letter addressed to a particular village is not being delivered by the post office. The post office has a record of achieving about 99.9 per cent of delivery schedule.

Sir, I think already a Half-an-Hour discussion was taken up last week and the Minister of State has already explained it in detail. Removing a post office does not mean that there is no service in that area. The service will be taken by the nearby post office. This is just to make sure of the efficiency of the service.

[Translation]

Restoration of Democracy in Nepal

+
*463. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the ongoing unrest in Nepal;

(b) if so, whether this has become a security threat in several parts of the country;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the matter regarding adequate protection to Indians in Nepal under this situation has been conveyed to the Nepalese authorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether an Indian delegation has gone to Nepal in a bid to assist them in the restoration of democracy there;

(g) if so, the details of talks held in that regard; and

(h) the efforts made by India in the process of bringing about peace and stability in Nepal?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (h) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (h) Government has been closely following events in Nepal arising out of the movement by the political parties for the restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal, which rapidly gathered momentum in April 2006. After several days of country-wide and large scale demonstrations in Nepal involving hundreds and thousands of people, the King of Nepal handed over all executive power to a government of the Seven Party Alliance, and announced the revival of the House of Representatives on April 24, 2006. Thereafter, the agitations were withdrawn, and Mr. G.P. Koirala was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal on April 30, 2006.

During this period, necessary measures were taken by the government to strengthen vigilance along the India-Nepal border. The matter of ensuring the safety and security of Indians in Nepal was forcefully taken up by government through diplomatic channels with Nepalese authorities.

Dr. Karan Singh paid a visit to Nepal as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India on April 19-20, 2006. During his visit, the Special Envoy was received by the King on April 20, 2006 and held meetings with leaders of prominent political parties on April 19-20, 2006. In his meetings in Kathmandu, the Special Envoy stressed the need for genuine dialogue between the constitutional forces in Nepal, with the objective of urgently restoring multi-party democracy in the country in order to overcome the crisis facing Nepal. He conveyed India's readiness to support all efforts towards this end while emphasizing that a lasting solution to the problems of Nepal has to be found by the people of Nepal themselves through a peaceful political process.

India has consistently called for the process of genuine dialogue between the constitutional forces of Nepal to find a peaceful solution to the challenges facing the country, including the Maoist insurgency.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Mr, Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Maoists of Nepal, ISI, Naxalites and the LTTE have formed an alliance and have spread the network of terrorism in India and under the directions of ISI the said alliance is executing many terrorist activities in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka via Nepal. They are engaged in setting up a 'red corridor' in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The recent seizure of large quantity of RDX and other weapons in Maharashtra is a part of the said plan. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to break this nexus check in flow of weapons in large number from Nepal and the infiltration of Maoist terrorists and the extent of success achieved by Government in this regard?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the Government is well aware of the border infiltration and the anti-India activities. The Government of India is concerned about continuing

activities of the ISI and other criminal elements in Nepal and across the border into India and is seized of the matter. We are also concerned at the misuse of some religious places along the border for conducting activities inimical to our interests. The Government of India has taken up issues relating to ISI activities in Nepalese territory and the misuse of the open India-Nepal border with Nepalese authorities. In this context, we have stressed the need for closer coordination and increased vigil. The Nepalese side has given the assurance for enhanced cooperation in this regard and has conveyed its resolve not to allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is how many Maoists and terrorists are in the various jails of the country at present? Is it true that a few political parties of India are supporting their activities and are mounting pressure on the Government to release them from jails? Do the Government have received any memorandum requesting for the release of Maoist from our jails, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, there are some people belonging to the Maoist Group in the custody of several States for violating some of the laws. The prominent Maoist leaders who are under judicial custody in India are Mohan Vaidya *aka* Kiran and C.P. Gajurel. These are the two people now under judicial custody. So far, there was no request by the Government of Nepal to release them. But the matter has been conveyed to the Nepalese Government of their detention in India.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has replied that stability of democracy in Nepal is a guarantee for the internal security of India. India has been making efforts to restore democracy in Nepal for the last six months, but in the month of April when the royal dynasty realized that they are going to be blown away like straws in the wind, they accepted the advice of the Government of India and allowed democracy to be back on track. I would like to welcome this move, but I want that no stones should be left unturned in our bid to help them achieve stability of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my personal capacity and on the basis of my experience I can say that a big centre of ISI activities is based in Nepal. The Maoist extremists did not create troubles in Uttar Pradesh, but it was created by the ISI backed organization. I am delighted to know what the hon'ble Minister said today that the Government of Nepal had given him an assurance that no scope for such activities would be given in their country. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what sort of efforts were made by the Government India in order to provide stability to democracy in Nepal and to bring the Maoist organizations back to the mainstream of democracy.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the Government have been trying all their best to bring back the multi-party democracy. As the hon. Member has mentioned, the Government has been consistent in its stand and support for multi-party democracy to be installed. That is one of the most important pillars in the Constitution for which a genuine dialogue among the constitutional forces was necessary. I may say that we have always felt that political power should be exercised by the representatives of the people and it is for them to really decide what the future of Nepal is going to be. But as a close neighbour of Nepal and a country which has very intimate cultural and ethnic links with Nepal, it has always been our wish to seek peace and prosperity in Nepal because stability in Nepal is in the best interest of India. We have also believed that democracy in Nepal is the best guarantee of such stability and we will always respect the wishes of the people of Nepal.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel everyone in this House will express satisfaction on restoration of democracy in Nepal. It is a victory of the democratic forces not only for the people of Nepal but for all those throughout the world who were fighting for democracy and peace. My question to the hon. Prime Minister is whether he appreciates the laudable role played by the Left Parties of India in the process of restoration of democracy in Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: Will it depend on the Minister's appreciation only?

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: This is also a formal question.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The leaders of the Left Parties have also followed the very policy of the Government of India and we appreciate their stand also.

MR. SPEAKER: They have followed each other.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar as well as our many other neighbours are facing internal turmoil, resulting into a serious problem for India. That has also snowballed into an internal crisis for India because it looks like that more than 25 per cent of the districts of India are presently suffering from the so-called naxalite activity. So, the foreign policy has to be related to domestic concerns as well as the domestic concerns are now getting into the issues related to foreign policy. Considering the magnitude of the problem, it is no longer an issue related to Nepal only and restoration of democracy in Nepal. There is a strong evidence that there are forces in Nepal that are trying to destabilise the Government and also working hand in hand with forces in India. The naxalite activity in India cannot be dubbed as an anti-national activity. There are so many peasants who have taken up arms and are fighting a war against the State. They seem to be having a genuine grievance, a socio-economic grievance. Is the Government trying to tackle this problem, considering the serious magnitude involved in it?

MR. SPEAKER: The question should be on Nepal.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I am here to answer only question asked in respect of Nepal. I have already mentioned whatever has been raised in this question in respect of Nepal and their relationship with us. There is a wider range of question about Bangladesh and Myanmar. If the hon. Member gives notice on this matter, I will definitely answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You have become a very diplomatic Minister.

Next supplementary to be asked by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that it has been shown in part 'B' of the question that many parts of India have security concerns. But no clear answer has been given for the same. Maoists issue has been mentioned, but the

States adjoining Nepal like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, specially in Bihar more than a dozen districts have been affected by Maoist activities. The same has reached to such a climax that the house of our hon. Member Sh. Sitaram Singh was attacked during daylight and there is a danger to his life of which you and the House is already aware.

Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the activities in Nepal are taking roots in Bihar on a large scale. Have been any concrete steps taken to prevent Maoist activities after discussing the matter with Government of Nepal so as to check Maoist activities in the districts of Bihar where Nepali Maoist take direct shelter and conduct their activities in the districts of Bihar. So that Maoist activities can be stopped and peace can prevail in those eleven affected districts of Bihar?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat the points.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. But I cannot say that these activities – that had happened in Bihar – happened as a result of infiltration or crossing of borders by the Maoists from Nepal. Maoist activities are there in different parts of the country, but as far as our reports are concerned, there are reports of ideological linkages between the Maoist and some Leftist extremists in Nepal and India; and there is no conclusive evidence of operational linkages between the two. This is our position.

The Government of India is concerned about the security situation in Nepal in view of the open borders between the two countries. The spread of Maoist insurgency is resulting in adverse implications, particularly, in our border States. But there is no particular information, which has been supplied to us, that the Nepalese Maoists who have crossed the border have created disturbance.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to say that the Government should remain alert. Last but not least, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, proper reply has not come from the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not being recorded, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not the Minister to give information here.

[Translation]

He will give it when he has it. Please ask only questions at this point of time.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nepal has seven party's coalition Government. Maoists also supported the agitation which was going on in Nepal. Nepal's border touches Bihar. According to information available with me Maoists will assure power in Nepal in a few days. There is a nexus between Maoists of Nepal and Naxalites in our country. According to information, they have held a secret meeting in Delhi too. They have also occupied the sea areas of this country.

Through you, I would like to know from the Government that under the prevailing conditions, when Maoists capture power in Nepal, there is underline threat to this country from Maoists. What is the plan of action of the Government in this regard and what arrangements are being made for the security of that border area?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, a new Government has come into power in Nepal, and the Government of India would be taking up all the matters including India's security concern as well as the border disputes, etc. with the new Government. All the points raised by the hon. Member would also be taken up with the new Government in Nepal during the course of our discussions.

Black Marketing of Coal

*464. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of allocating coal to the National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF);

(b) the details of the quantum of coal lifted by the NCCF and sold to the consumers during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the rate at which the coal was given to the NCCF and the rate at which the same was sold by them;

(d) whether any complaints have been received regarding sale of coal in black market;

(e) if so, whether these complaints have been investigated;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check black marketing of coal;

(h) whether the purpose of allocating coal to the NCCF has been achieved; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):
(a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF), a multi state cooperative society, was allocated coal, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for distributing it to small and tiny consumers who do not have linkage or sponsorship and find it difficult to approach directly coal companies to meet their requirements of coal.

(b) Order for allocation of coal to NCCF was issued in December 2004, for a quantity of 2 million tonnes per annum. However, the actual quantity of coal lifted by NCCF is as under:

2004-05	0.89 lakh tonnes
2005-06	4.19 lakh tonnes
April 2006	: 0.36 lakh tonnes

(c) NCCF is being supplied coal at the floor price of e-marketing *i.e.* 20% above the notified price. NCCF has been directed to distribute coal to small and tiny consumers across the country at a price not in excess of

105% of the base price charged by the coal companies. Transportation charges and duties/levies shall be extra.

(d) to (i) Complaints have been received alleging irregularities in sale of coal by NCCF. Chief Vigilance Officer, CIL was instructed to investigate those complaints. In his report, he suggested certain measures to improve the distribution network system of NCCF. Based on his report, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution was requested to take follow up action.

CIL has been directed to strictly monitor supply of coal to prevent any misuse of coal.

Coal India Limited has put in place a "Watchdog mechanism" to ensure that there are no irregularities in sale of coal by NCCF.

This arrangement has been made to enable tiny consumers to access coal. To that extent the objective is being achieved.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Standing Committee on Coal and Steel has presented their eleventh report to Lok Sabha on 22.12.2005. In Chapter I Para 1.25, Committee has specially mentioned with regret that distribution of coal to consumers in non-core sector is in the hands of black-marketeer and due to this thousands of genuine small consumers have closed down their business. Every year nearly 250 to 300 lakh tonnes of coal is sold in black market in collusion with the company and these officers and 1500 to 2000 tonnes of coal are sold in black market. Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that we have been receiving complaints in this regard and he has ordered an investigation by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner but we have no information till date as to what happened to that report while replying to an unstarred question in this House. The hon. Minister has admitted that complaints of black marketing have been received against the NCCF and the Government is studying the investigation report. I would like to know as to how long they will study it? We have also come to know that the Prime Minister has ordered a CBI inquiry in this regard. I would like to know whether CBI has investigated both the reports and whether they have submitted that report? Black Marketing of Coal has been discussed time & again in the House, but the same has not been checked so far.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask only one question. By when the problem is likely to be solved this is your question.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, NCCF is an organisation of the Government of India which has the powers and arrangements for the distribution of all types of items. Our company has promised two million tonnes of coal for it every year. This arrangement is for those small consumers who are unable to purchase coal. They may have to face inconvenience in this regard. Out of these two lakh tonnes, the total offtake during the year 2004-05 was 89 lakh tonnes and during 2005-2006, it was 4 lakh 19 thousand tonnes and till April, 2006 it was 36 lakh tonnes. I would, therefore, like to say that off take has been very less. It was lesser than expected. We have a CVO in our department for all such complaints, who is investigating into the matter. He has also submitted the investigation report and I will apprise hon. Member about it in detail. I would like to say that there is nothing special in it and unnecessary chaos is being created in the matter. I have seen it and I am getting it investigated. The Coal off take was not in the quantity as provided in the rules which means that nobody came to take it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: What has been done in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not 36 lakhs, it is 0.36 lakh.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not replied to my previous question. He has replied the first question that the Government have received report, complaints and investigation has also been done. I would like to know as to what action have this Government taken after receiving the report? First of all I want to have an answer to this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has said that they are looking into it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You have been looking into it for five years. For how many years will you look into it? Please tell the House.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: The report pertaining to NCCF is baseless. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask another question.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Coal India has distributed coal amongst consumers through NCCF. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether verification of any consumer has been done? If verification has been done, the outcome thereof?

MR. SPEAKER: It will be looked into by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, All right please speak.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have many consumers. The list of those who take less than 500 tonnes of coal is quite long. We will send it to hon. Member later....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How the Minister will read a full list here. The Minister will send you the list.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir hon. Minister has replied that arrangements have been made through NCCF to provide coal to small consumers. Secondly, hon. Minister has replied that if black marketing of the coal is done by the NCCF then there exists a monitoring mechanism. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what is the need of providing coal to small consumers through the NCCF? What is the harm in giving coal directly to small industries as per their demand. Whether the monitoring cell has been created only for monitoring NCCF, or it keeps a watch on all the sites of Coal India where black marketing of Coal is done?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has said about the NCCF.

[Translation]

It is meant for NCCF.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is meant for NCCF because they conduct other business activities also in India. This arrangement was made to ensure distribution of coal without any bungling. It would help those who are not in a position to make direct contact with the coal companies. The CVOs keep a watch on each company at the place of production and distribution to preclude any chances of irregularities. They inform us in case of any irregularities regarding production, distribution or concerning any other aspect, and we make a report.

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied the question regarding the allotment of NCCF. The reply ends with the information that – this arrangement has been made for small consumers and tiny industries. I would like to know the

quantity of coal that the small and medium industries have got as yet? The Prime Minister remarked that the country needs external investments in industries, while the NCCF has not supplied coal till now. No arrangements have been made so far as per the vigilance report, pursuant to the investigations conducted by Coal India. Since 2004, Coal India has been very slow in acting on the report. The sales and marketing department of Coal India should be thoroughly investigated. The hon. Minister should elucidate about the arrangements made for investigating all these aspects?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since there has been no off take of Coal, what is there to investigate? You may have seen the data. It will take time. Those in need of coal would be given when they ask for it. Regarding the NCCF, several complaints have been received in this regard. But we have seen that off take of coal was very less. There are a few persons who have taken coal. The complaint was investigated and a detailed report was prepared....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Regarding West Bengal, let me remind you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him conclude. Then, we shall see.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Regarding West Bengal, I will inform you in writing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has admitted about the black marketing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me try to find a way out.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wanted to know whether the aim to provide coal to the tiny consumers had been achieved? He asked whether the supply to the tiny industries is adequate. What information do you have in this regard?

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: I have the factual information in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You send him the written reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, we cannot have full discussion on it now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Brajesh Pathak. Kindly put a simple question.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is aware that the mafia fully control the coal business. In my State, Uttar Pradesh one ex-Member of Parliament was killed for this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to check the mafia who are controlling the coal business and indulging in extortion?

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, it is a very simple question put by him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Reportedly, the mafia control the coal business. We have discussed this in the consultative committee. They should try to apprehend them. We get feedback from our Department which is entrusted with the task to apprehend them. My facts are based on that feedback only. I myself belong to the area where coal is available....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister said all is not well with this department entrusted with the job of controlling the mafia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: We receive various types of complaints related to coal. For instance some relate to non-availability of coal, some relate to over supply and some complain about not getting any coal. I need to give a detailed answer. So far no such mafia connection

has been established. In case of any such connection. I will let you know.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, coal is being allotted not only through the NCCF but also directly by the PS Us to the small units or power plants. For instance, in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in my Constituency, the coal produced in mines is being transported to mine-II and to thermal plant through conveyer. But in the meanwhile, overloading, over and above the permitted tonnage is being done, and the excess quantity so transported is being black-marketed to the nearby zero unit. It is happening under the very nose of the Director, Mines Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is having any monitoring mechanism so that he can prevent not only the violation of the safety norms already in vogue but also prevent the loss of monetary benefits to the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, the hon. Member says that the coal is being supplied by the PSUs also to the tiny consumers. But let me submit that it has been discontinued now. It is only on linkages and not to tiny consumers. For tiny consumers, the NCCF had allotted 2 million tonnes; and through the State Governments, we are giving 3 million tonnes. Almost all the State Governments are eligible to draw the coal from the coal companies for the tiny and small consumers.

So, they are not directly issuing any linkage. The linkage will come from CIL. There is a Committee, and through that Committee only, it would happen.

About the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, whatever the hon. Member says, let him send a letter to us and we would look into it. Definitely, we will take care of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

Since I am going to allow Half-an-hour Discussion on this, we will now come to the next question.

*[Translation]***Statement****AIDS Hospitals/Centres**

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*465. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) the number of hospitals/centres set up for treatment of AIDS patients in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more centres to detect AIDS in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the centres already set up are fully operational and equipped with the necessary logistics;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

(a) to (f) Antiretroviral Treatment for AIDS patients is being provided in 54 ART Centres as indicated at Annexure – I. In these 54 Centers, a total of 28,665 patients are getting treatment free of cost. Action has been taken to open an additional 46 centres in order to meet the increased demand for antiretroviral treatment. These additional centres, as indicated at Annexure – II, will be operational by the middle of June, 2006, on the completion of training, supply of drugs and diagnostic equipments. In these 100 centres, an estimated 85,320 patients will be provided free treatment during 2006-07.

At each ART centre, NACO provides funds for appointment of two doctors, one counselor, one lab technician, one data entry operator and a pharmacist on contractual basis. The diagnostic equipments such as CD4 count machines, reagents and drugs are also provided to these ART centres. The doctors in the department where the ART Centre is located are provided specialized training for 12 days and faculty members are provided training for 5 days at the Centres of Excellence identified for the purpose.

Though it is targeted to provide free ART to 1,80,000 patients in 188 Centres by 2010, action to further expand ART Centres will be taken in keeping with the demand.

Annexure I*Status of ART Centres as on 30th April 2006***NACO Supported ART Centers**

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Centre	No. of Patients				
			Male	Female	Children	TS/TG	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.		GHTM, Tambaram, Chennai	1434	984	188	0	2606
2.		Madras Medical College, Chennai	372	179	2	0	553
3.		Government Medical College, Madurai	706	421	34	0	1161
4.		Government Hospital, Namakkal	687	560	54	0	1301
5.		Kilpouk Medical College, Chennai	26	18	14	0	58
6.	Tamil Nadu	Medical College, Salem	127	109	5	0	241
7	(14)	Medical College, Tirunelveli	88	33	8	0	129

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.		Med college, Coimbatore	79	41	1	0	121
9.		Med College, Theni	90	73	20	0	183
10.		Med college, Thanzavur	64	31	0	0	95
11.		Med college, vellore	77	48	8	0	133
12.		Med college, Kanyakumari	57	25	3	0	85
13.		Med college, Trichy	81	77	0	0	158
14.		IOG	47	44	8	0	99
15.		JJ Hospital, Mumbai	2144	968	66	0	3181
16.		KEM Hospital, Mumbai	350	197	40	0	587
17.		Nair Hospital, Mumbai	163	83	10	0	256
18.		Sion Hospital, Mumbai	171	85	32	0	288
19.	Maharashtra (9)	Government Medical College, Sangli	463	344	59	0	866
20.		B.J. Medical College, Pune	589	361	59	0	1009
21.		Government Medical College, Nagpur	571	224	79	0	874
22.		NARI Pune	87	40	0	0	127
23.		ARCON, Mumbai	42	27	0	0	69
24.		Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	723	325	15	0	1063
25.	Andhra Pradesh (3)	Government Medical College, Guntur	694	343	12	0	1049
26.		Government Medical College, Vizag	114	61	0	0	175
27.		Lady Curzon Hosp., Bangalore	742	339	43	0	1124
28.	Karnataka (5)	Mysore Medical College, Mysroe	287	149	2	0	438
29.		VIMS, Bellary	68	25	0	0	93
30.		KIMS Hubli	401	202	24	0	627
31.		Freedom Foundation (Round II)					254
32.		RIMS, Imphal	383	173	14	0	570
33.	Manipur (2)	Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal	525	337	88	0	950

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Nagaland (1)	Naga District Hospital, Kohima	97	53	9	0	159
35.	Delhi (5)	RML Hospital, New Delhi	800	301	128	4	1231
36.		LNJP Hospital, New Delhi	426	136	18	4	584
37.		AIIMS, New Delhi	318	102	25	3	448
38.		DDU Hospital, New Delhi	10	4	0	0	14
39.		LRS Institute of TB, New Delhi	20	7	1	0	28
40.	Chandigarh (1)	PGIMER, Chandigarh	426	208	91	0	725
41.	Rajasthan (1)	SMS Hospital, Jaipur	562	198	25	0	785
42.	Gujarat (1)	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad	681	292	41	0	1014
43.	West Bengal (1)	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkatta	595	165	21	0	781
44.	Uttar Pradesh (3)	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	522	207	21	0	750
45.		KGMC, Lucknow	233	60	13	0	306
46.		LLRM Med College, Meerut	13	3	0	0	16
47.	Goa (1)	Government Medical Collge, Bambolim	152	74	11	0	237
48.	Kerala (2)	Med College, Thiruvanthapuram	238	128	24	0	390
49.		Med College, Thrissur	275	138	0	0	413
50.	Himachal Pradesh (1)	IGMC, Shimla	19	12	2	0	33
51.	Pondicherry (1)	GGH, Pondicherry	28	20	12	0	60
52.	Madhya Pradesh (1)	Med College, Indore	237	115	34	0	386
53.	Assam (1)	Med College, Guwahati	23	10	0	0	33
54.	Arunachal Pradesh (1)	General Hospital, Nehariagun	1	2	0	0	3
Total			18128	9161	1362	14	28665

Annexure II*Details of additional 46 ART Centres*

State	Institution/Location
1	2
Maharashtra (5)	1. MC, Aurangabad
	2. MC, Dule
	3. MC, Akola
	4. MC, Yawatmal
	5. MC, Ambejogai
Andhra Pradesh (8)	6. MC, Kakinada
	7. Govt. MC, Tirupati
	8. Govt. MC, Warangal
	9. Govt. MC, Karnool
	10. Govt. MC, Ananthapur
	11. Govt. MC, Vijaywada
	12. District hospital, Cuddalore
	13. District hospital, Prakassam
Karnataka (8)	14. District Hosp. Devaneri
	15. District Hosp., Manglore
	16. District Hosp., Gulbarga
	17. District Hosp., Belgaon
	18. District Hosp., Bijapur
	19. District Hosp., Bagalkot
	20. District Hosp., Kolar
Manipur (2)	21. District Hosp., Raichur
	22. Dist. Hosp., Churachandpur
Nagaland (2)	23. Dist hospital, Ukhrul
	24. Civil Hosp. Tuensang
Delhi (1)	25. Dist. Hosp. Diamapur
	26. Safdarjung Hospital

1	2
Gujarat (1)	27. MC, Surat
Madhya Pradesh (1)	28. MC, Jabalpur
West Bengal (1)	29. MC, Siliguri
Rajasthan (1)	30. MC, Jodhpur
Assam (1)	31. MC, Dibrugarh
Kerala (2)	32. MC, Kotayyam
	33. MC, Calicut
Orissa (1)	34. SCB MC, Behrampur
Haryana (1)	35. Govt. MC, Rohtak
Punjab (2)	36. Civil Hosp., Jalandhar
	37. Govt., MC, Amritsar
Bihar (2)	38. Govt. MC, Patna
Jammu and Kashmir (1)	39. Govt., MC, Muzzafarpur
	40. Govt., MC, Jammu
Jharkhand (1)	41. Govt. MC, Ranchi
Uttaranchal (1)	42. Doon Hospital, Dehradun
Chhattisgarh (1)	43. Govt. MC, Raipur
Tripura (1)	44. GB Pant Hosp., Agartala
Meghalaya (1)	45. State Hosp., Shillong
Mizoram (1)	46. Civil Hospital, Aizawal

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the hon. Minister's reply 188 ART centers would be constructed to cater to 1,80,000 patients by 2010. This pertains to urban areas. And this disease is also spreading in several rural areas. When AIDS patients in rural areas go to the rural health centres or to doctors in these areas, they refuse to give them medical aid saying that they do not have necessary medicines and equipment. They send the patients to district hospitals or to cities. The patient is unable to reach these places and dies without treatment. I would like to know whether you would provide necessary medicines etc. to Zila Panchayats or the civil hospital centres in rural areas so that at least

primary treatment could be given to such patients. Will action be taken against doctors who refuse to treat such patients in the rural areas?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Member about extending the services to the rural areas but there is a logistic problem in setting up the Centres. It is a gradual process. We are in the phase of expanding this facility. To start an ART Centre, we need specialists, trained manpower, minimum two doctors, technicians, CD4 counters, equipment, infrastructure and Counselling Centres for handling the patients. So, to have one ART Centre, we need to have a lot of infrastrucutre. That is why it takes a little time for us to currently expand this facility even to urban areas. Today, we have approximately 54 free of cost ART Centres and by next month we will be having minimum about 100 Centres. It is not going to be just stopping with 100 Centres. We are going to expand as and when we have demand. We are through the process and this covers both the rural and urban areas. We will make sure that patients come from rural areas to get themselves treated in the urban Centres.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, the Minister has not replied to my query as to what action would be taken against doctors in rural areas who do not treat AIDS patients but refer them to either district or city hospitals for treatment. Regarding the 46 ART centres, to be opened in June. I thank him for selecting the Aurangabad Medical College in my Constituency, for this. In Maharashtra, Aurangabad, Dhule, Akola, Yavatmal and Ambayjogai—these five cities have been selected for establishing ART centres. I want to know whether necessary funds have been allotted for these centres, whether specialist doctors and staff have been appointed so that such hospitals may function smoothly and serve the people? Usually it so happens that announcements are made but funds are not allocated. Would the hon. Minister provide funds immediately to the Director, Medical services of the Government of Maharashtra for this?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When will you send the money?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Regarding the first part of the hon. Member's question about doctors not providing

treatment in rural areas, I would say that there has been a misuse of treatment of ART drugs. If this drug is given, it should be given life long. Some doctors give it for one month and ultimately it reaches the resistance, with the result, it beco me more costly to treat the patient. Now we are trying to regulate the treatment of ART drug itself. We are not trying to have mandatory accreditation of doctors who are rolling out treatment in both private and government centres. So, it is not like that any doctor could just treat these patients. They have to have requisite infrastructure and requisite training. In fact, the treatment should be done according to the CD-4 count of the patient.

Coming to the second part, on demand we are rolling out these free centres. In Maharashtra by next month there will be about five new centres rolling out for free ART treatment. If required, we will be having more centres also as per the number of patients coming to these centres. Today, about 65,000 patients are being registered for these centres. As and when, they come forward, we would be expanding our services.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the population of our country is the second largest in the world. It is badly affected by this virulent type of disease. As we know, prevention is better than cure. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has any plan or scheme or proposal to initiate awareness campaign programme throughout the country particularly rural areas and semi-urban areas by holding seminars and symposiums regarding dangerous consequences of this virulent type of disease.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the hon. Member is right when he says that prevention is better than cure. We are focussing both our attention and resources - financial and infrastructure - and about 80 per cent of our National AIDS Programme, goes for prevention part and 20 per cent goes to care and support.

As regards prevention, the Member is concerned about rural areas. This problem is going from urban to rural areas, especially to womenfolk. Therefore, we are having a lot of awareness campaign all along these years. In fact, we are going at the school level. We have covered literally about 60,000 schools both in the rural and urban areas. We plan to cover 60,000 more schools and universities. In fact, we had a youth congress which was chaired by the hon. Prime Minister and he had spoken to the youths. A lot of doctors had also come. We have

targeted interventions on high risk groups both in the urban and the rural areas. We have been increasing the number of centres which we call the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres where at the primary health centre level and the community health centres level both in rural and urban areas these services are provided. So, a lot of movement has been going into it.

We have been going in for more active condom promotion campaign. We have about 11,000 condom vending machines set up throughout the country. We intend to increase them. Last year, we rolled out about 1.6 billion condoms which are not enough but we are trying to increase it to cover both rural areas and urban areas. A lot of IEC – Information-Education-Communication campaigns through visual and print media is being taken up. A lot of movement has been going on. We have a Parliamentary Forum on HIV which is playing a very active role. We are trying to start Legislative Fora at the State level and nine to ten States have started it. We are trying to have Panchayat Forum also for HIV awareness. Some States have initiated it. So, a lot of movement is going on for the awareness campaign for prevention of the disease.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Koya, there is not much time left. So, let us put a pointed question.

DR. P.P. KOYA: I intend to congratulate the Minister for giving a detailed reply on the spread of disease and control of the AIDS. From the Minister's answer, it is clear that we have to go a long way to bring the disease under control. It is a fact that crores of rupees have been spent by the Government mainly through AIDS control programme and several NGOs or voluntary organisations but still the Minister has conceded that the disease is still spreading. The disease was confined formerly to Maharashtra and certain southern States. Now it has started travelling towards the north covering the whole country. As the Minister has said, even I had the opportunity to participate in several of the IEC and training activities, but still the disease is spreading. I would like to know from the Minister almost by which date we can control the disease and even eliminate the disease.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Koya, as a doctor, do you believe that it is possible?

DR. P.P. KOYA: Sir, the hon. Minister also is a doctor and let us hear his reply.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we would like to be very optimistic on this issue. In fact, I would like to share my concern with the hon. Member who also is a doctor.

Sir, we have come a long way since 1986 when the first case of HIV AIDS was reported in India. Today we have approximately 52 lakh reported cases of HIV AIDS. Last year the figure was about 5.13 million. Going by international standards, the increase has been minimal. But the prevalence rate of .91 per cent amongst adults has remained constant both for last year as well as this year. There are some States like Tamil Nadu where there has not been any increase in the prevalence rate, there has been a plateau in the prevalence rate...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member that in Northern States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and even in the North-Eastern States and Gujarat there has been an increase in the prevalence rate which we are tackling. It is the concern of the nation. Definitely, I would like to urge upon the hon. Members to participate in a big way to shoot off an awareness campaign about this in their own respective constituencies.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, against a target of 50,000 patients during the year 2005-06, the achievement is only 23,000 under the ART programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dome, please put a brief and pointed question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The situation is very alarming. One in every four cases reported is a woman which is indicative of the fact that it is assuming an epidemic form and is moving from high risk group to the general population.

Very recently, in the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan, the Planning Commission has suggested some 15 points to be incorporated under this programme of AIDS control. My pointed supplementary to the hon. Minister is this. What is the reason for the poor performance of ART programme during the year 2005-06? Second part of my question is this. Is the Government proposing a policy framework and a range of programme intervention to address the children affected with AIDS, currently not specially included under this programme?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may answer only one part of his question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, Dr. Dome is also a doctor and I am sure he will understand the constraints the Department is facing on rolling out free ART. As I said earlier we need more logistics, infrastructure, equipment, manpower and laboratories. We also need patients to be enlisted in the census. We are in an expanding mode. There is a little lag in putting out these centres. So far only 54 centres have been put out. But I would like to assure the hon. Member that by the next month, there will be about 100 centres. We would not stop at 100 centres. We would be expanding more when there is more demand for these centres.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, we have had a full discussion on this subject with these two supplementaries by two doctors.

Compensation to losers of land

*466 SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate compensation has not been paid to the land oustees by the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) the details of cases of compensation pending for disposal including the date from which pending, company-wise;

(c) steps taken to dispose of all pending cases in a time bound manner;

(d) whether the Government proposes to evolve a uniform criteria for payment of compensation to land oustees and provide them permanent source of income; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN) :
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Compensation is paid to land losers as per provision of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 (LA Act) and Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 (CBA Act) and the guidelines of the Government.

(b) Out of about 81,000 cases, compensation has been paid in about 76,000 cases and the rest are pending with the concerned Courts/Tribunals and coal companies.

(c) to (e) Following steps have been taken to dispose of pending cases:

(i) During the financial year 2005-06, additional provision of Rs. 43 crores, was made by the Government as against the original provision of Rs. 25 crores.

(ii) In case of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, camps for disbursement of compensation are being held at Project/Area level at regular interval with prior intimation to land owners. Periodical meetings are also held with land owners/local peoples' representatives to settle the pending cases. In cases where the land losers are not available in the addresses given to the company as per record, notices are published in local newspapers for receiving compensation.

(iii) In cases where land is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, regular follow-up with District Land Acquisition Officer of the State Government is done to settle the cases of payment of compensation.

Criteria for payment of compensation have been spelt out under L.A. Act, 1894 and CBA (A & D) Act, 1957 and there is no need for Government to evolve any further uniform criteria.

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy of Coal India Ltd. has a provision of employment to land oustees fulfilling eligibility criteria and also subject to the availability of vacancy. In case it is not possible to offer employment, the land oustees are given monetary compensation for self employment.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, we would ask in brief. You are requested to extend the time for one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated in his reply that out of 81,000 cases, 76,000 cases have been settled. This reply is based on wrong facts. Even then, if we take it as true that he has paid compensation in all the cases, has he made any provision to provide them jobs or employment besides compensation? How many people have been given employment in addition to compensation out of 81,000. Besides, I would like to know the number of cases

pending in courts or lying under his consideration? Reply of both the questions may please be given separately.

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply these questions just now if you have the details otherwise send it later.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: I would like to furnish the details later as this is very wide. As far as rule for compensation is concerned, the State Government, the company and the people of village mutually decide, and regulate and then, they are displaced.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a second supplementary?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I have got the reply.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to all the hon. Members for their cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Illegal Coal Mining

*467. SHRI SITARAM SINGH:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise and the company-wise number of coal mines under the private sector;

(b) whether certain private companies are engaged in illegal mining in the coal mine area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the norms laid down for regulating the coal mining by the private companies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the violation of norms by the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) The number of coal blocks location-wise and coal

company-wise, allocated to private sector for captive mining, are as under:

Name of the State	Name of the Coal Company (Command Area)	Number of blocks allocated
West Bengal	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1
Madhya Pradesh	Western Coalfields Ltd.	2
	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	1
Maharashtra	Western Coalfields Ltd.	11
Chhattisgarh	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	15
Jharkhand	Central Coalfields Ltd.	14
	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	3
Orissa	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	9

(b) and (c) In so far as blocks allotted to private companies for captive use are concerned, the only incident of illegal mining of coal in violation of the condition of captive use of coal in their end-use plant that has come to the notice of the Central Government was in respect of M/s Central Colliery Company Ltd., where they had reportedly sold coal mined from the Takli-Jena-Bellora (South) coal block allocated for captive mining of coal for use in their proposed power plant. The lease granted by the Government of Maharashtra in favour of them in respect of the said block has been declared void by the Revisional Authority constituted by the Central Government in exercise of its power of revision under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

(d) The salient terms and conditions of allotment of coal block for captive mining, *inter-alia*, are as follows:

- The Coal produced from the captive block shall be used captively in the end-use plant of the allocatees.
- Coal produced during the development period, when the end use plant may not have been commissioned, could be transferred to the local Coal India Ltd. subsidiary at a price to be determined by the Government.
- Production from the coal block has to commence in 36 to 54 months depending upon whether the block has underground or opencast reserve or is in forest land.

- Bank Guarantee equivalent to one year's estimated royalty amount to be furnished within three months from the date of allocation and prorata deduction from bank guarantee amount to be effected on failure to achieve the peak rated production as per schedule and ultimate deallocation of block on exhaustion of bank guarantee amount.
- In case violation of any of the terms and conditions of the allocation of coal blocks, the block/mining lease is liable to deallocation/cancellation.

(e) Some of the important steps taken by the Government to ensure timely and proper development of captive blocks:

- (i) Regular monitoring through the Coal Controller's Organisation;
- (ii) Quarterly Review at the Ministry level, where other related Administrative Ministries and State Governments are also represented;
- (iii) Enforcement of terms and conditions of mining lease by the State Governments.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

*468. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

- (a) the total funds allocated for the Golden Quadrilateral Project during the last two years;
- (b) whether the Government has fixed any target under the said project during the last two years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the above targets have been achieved;
- (d) whether funds allocated for the said project were sufficient;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the Project at a faster pace?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) There is no separate fund allocation for Golden Quadrilateral, which is part of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I. The expenditure incurred on Golden Quadrilateral Project during the last two years is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	5125.61
2005-06	3520.58
Total	8646.19

(b) and (c) The target and achievement for the last two years on Golden Quadrilateral is as under:

Year	Target	Achievement
2004-05	2317.18	2082.70
2005-06	782.09	582.82

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The steps taken by the Government for implementation of the Project at faster pace are indicated in statement enclosed.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and the Minister.
- (b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-

ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.

- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified. Earlier all the notifications under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Now, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.
- (e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.

Mobile and Basic Phone Subscribers

*469. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the number of mobile phone users and landline users in the rural and urban areas as on date separately, State-wise;

(b) the expected growth of the users during the current financial year;

(c) whether with the rapid growth of mobile phone users, the demand for land line telephone has alarmingly gone down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to maintain a balanced growth of both the systems apace with the technological advancement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN):(a) The requisite information is given in Statement I enclosed.

(b) The expected addition during 2006-07 is about 50 - 60 million.

(c) and (d) As can be seen from the Table at Statement II enclosed while the number of landline phones continues to grow, the bulk of the growth has been in the mobile segment.

(e) The Government follows a technologically neutral policy. While the telecom operators like BSNL have taken steps to improve and modernise the existing wire line facilities with new features like broadband, the demand is essentially customer driven.

Statement I

State-Wise Break up of Mobile and Land Line Users as on 31.3.2006

Sl.No.	Name of State/Telecom Circle	Rural Phone			Urban Phone			Grand total
		Mobile Phone users	Land line users	Total	Mobile phone users	Land line users	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1265	20939	22204	29471	19234	48705	70909
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27251	1345975	1373226	6899354	2552979	9452333	10825559

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	9487	173149	182636	1071649	394118	1465767	1648403
4.	Bihar	0	540742	540742	3600406	714933	4315339	4856081
5.	Chhattisgarh	10937	81500	92437	108052	278604	386656	479093
6.	Gujarat	2694	908911	911605	6095675	2382493	8478168	9389773
7.	Haryana	2214	488104	490318	2053538	794893	2848431	3338749
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13	417844	417857	681050	108417	789467	1207324
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	73103	73103	1078340	265729	1344069	1417172
10.	Jharkhand	0	130017	130017	356440	387155	743595	873612
11.	Karnataka	1815	951649	953464	6234192	2398289	8632481	9585945
12.	Kerala	26917	2634230	2661147	4272529	1662262	5934791	8595938
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4488	380024	384512	3065741	1314796	4380537	4765049
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	21800	1621495	1643375	6486650	3277482	9766132	11409507
15.	North East	3064	123135	126199	466596	269400	735996	862195
16.	Orissa	0	379954	379954	2014728	564872	2579600	2959554
17.	Punjab	2670	878757	881427	5032311	1546633	6578964	7460391
18.	Rajasthan	9865	787604	797469	3698547	1539911	5238458	6035927
19.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	4024	1002424	1006448	5456331	2260818	7717149	8723597
20.	Uttaranchal	1429	122883	124312	282512	281280	563792	688104
21.	Uttar Pradesh	9315	792441	801756	9249414	2591335	11840749	12642505
22.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	1100	702700	703800	2566788	706312	3273100	3976900
23.	Kolkata	0	0	0	3151963	1729034	4880997	4880997
24.	Chennai	0	70239	70239	2988079	1216205	4204284	4274523
25.	Delhi	0	0	0	8004969	2528792	10533761	10533761
26.	Mumbai	0	0	0	7429566	3160895	10590461	10590461
Total		140428	14627819	14768247	92376891	34946891	127323782	142092029

Statement II**Number of Basic and Mobile Phones**

Year	No. of Telephones (in Million)	
	Fixed (Landline + WLL)	Mobile
1999	21.61	1.20
2000	26.65	1.80
2001	32.70	3.58
2002	38.53	6.43
2003	41.93	12.69
2004	42.84	33.70
2005	46.85	51.53
2006	49.57	92.52

Development of National Waterways

*470. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether there is a need for development of some more waterways as National Waterways in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified such Waterways, which have to be developed during the next five years;

(c) if so, the names of those Waterways; and

(d) the likely length of each Waterway after its development?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government at present has identified following three waterways for declaration as new National Waterways and their subsequent development for shipping and navigation:

- (i) The canal system from Kakinada to Pondicherry along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km) in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry;

(ii) River Barak in Assam (152 km); and

(iii) East Coast canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi delta (623 km) in Orissa and West Bengal.

[English]

Non-Utilisation of Funds by State Governments

*471. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy and the plan funds allocated to the State Governments are required to be spent during a financial year itself;

(b) if so, whether several State Governments have not utilised the amount allocated under the annual plan over the years;

(c) if so, the names of such State Governments which have not utilised the amount allocated under the annual plan during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the non-utilised amount is returned to the Union Government;

(e) if so, the action taken against State Governments for the failure to utilise the allocated amount; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure that the amount allocated is fully utilised by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The size of the Annual Plans of States, which is funded by the State's own resources and Central assistance, is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. The Annual Plan outlay of the States is effective for the relevant financial year.

(b) and (c) The details of Approved Outlay and Expenditure there against State-wise during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) There is no specific provision for return of State Plan funds to the Union Government. Based on

the guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission, a proportionate cut in Normal Central Assistance is imposed by the Ministry of Finance in the following year in the following cases:

- (i) Where the total actual expenditure on the Plan in the previous year is lower than the revised approved outlays.
- (ii) Where the actual expenditure on earmarked

sectors is lower than the revised approved outlays.

This is done with a view to ensuring that the Plan projects are implemented as per time schedule envisaged.

(f) In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission half yearly review of Annual Plans is made by the Members/State Plan Advisers for their respective States to ensure that the Annual Plan is implemented as per time schedule envisaged.

Statement

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	States	Annual Plan 2003-04		Annual Plan 2004-05		Annual Plan 2005-06	
		Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Actual Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10970.46	10758.80	12790.43	15,850.77	15,850.77	13,530.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	708.00	642.30	760.35	655.80	850.00	817.94
3.	Assam	1780.00	1364.35	2175.00	1,766.67	3,000.00	2,875.53*
4.	Bihar	3320.00	2627.03	4000.00	3,196.47	5,329.65	4,735.46
5.	Chhattisgarh	2335.00	2403.99	3322.46	2,832.75	4,275.00	4,097.38
6.	Goa	649.99	567.60	883.33	766.81	1,025.00	1,069.36*
7.	Gujarat	7860.00	7584.69	8518.21	7,603.21	11,000.00	11,000.00*
8.	Haryana	2068.00	1865.79	2305.71	2,108.24	3,000.00	3,059.40
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1335.00	1306.60	1400.38	1,475.25	1,600.00	1,675.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2500.00	2352.10	3008.03	2,838.94	4,200.00	4,200.00\$
11.	Jharkhand	2935.85	1677.42	4110.19	2,585.20	4,510.12	4,519.49
12.	Karnataka	9620.00	8619.45	12322.92	11,741.17	13,555.00	12,852.82
13.	Kerala	4430.00	3617.64	4852.03	3,544.15	5,369.00	5,357.17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5703.00	5087.38	6709.96	6,610.43	7,471.00	8,325.00
15.	Maharashtra	12050.00	8187.69	9446.73	9,817.42	11,000.00	11,982.53*
16.	Manipur	590.00	286.62	787.72	559.70	985.37	985.37
17.	Meghalaya	555.00	486.16	716.34	590.17	800.00	723.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Mizoram	480.00	551.20	616.52	550.34	685.00	732.78
19.	Nagaland	500.00	479.07	538.79	483.13	620.00	676.25
20.	Orissa	3200.00	2436.90	2500.00	2,738.73	3,000.00	3,000.00
21.	Punjab	2822.00	1590.81	3479.80	1,968.04	3,550.00	3,550.00*
22.	Rajasthan	4258.00	6044.38	6797.50	6,590.55	8,350.00	8,000.00
23.	Sikkim	405.00	367.86	491.07	486.55	500.00	511.10
24.	Tamil Nadu	700.00	7088.31	8001.00	8,001.00#	9,100.00	9,113.57
25.	Tripura	650.00	576.01	700.27	579.11	804.00	823.65
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7728.00	6141.73	9661.51	8,427.54	13,500.00	13,579.12
27.	Uttaranchal	1575.00	1677.79	1810.40	1,916.74	2,700.00	2,732.11
28.	West Bengal	3894.00	2529.47	5019.62	4,288.28	6,476.00	6,032.78
Total (States)		101,922.30	88,919.14	117,726.27	110,303.18	143,005.91	140,357.38

: Actual Expenditure not reported by the State Government; Revised outlay taken.

\$: Revision not sought by the State Government; Approved outlay taken.

* : Revision not sought by the State Government; Anticipated Expenditure as reported by the State Government in their Draft Annual Plan Documents 2006-07 has been taken.

[*Translation*]

Debt Burden of States

*472. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the debt burden of certain States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is more than their annual income/revenue generated from different sources;

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

(c) whether the developmental schemes of the above States have been adversely affected as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Outstanding debt as percentage of total revenue receipts in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the year 2004-05 (RE) is given below:

State	Outstanding debt as percentage of total revenue receipts in 2004-05 (RE)
Bihar	288.99
Uttar Pradesh	347.73
Rajasthan	353.07
Madhya Pradesh	216.81

The increasing debt build-up of the States is mainly attributed to deteriorating Balance of Current Revenue due to the burden of salaries, pensions and interest payments together with non-recovery of appropriate user charges, inadequate own revenue generation of the States and poor return on investments.

(c) and (d) Due to diversion of large part of the borrowings for debt servicing and meeting other committed non-plan revenue expenditure, availability of resources for developmental projects of the States were not sufficient. This is reflected in capital outlay as percentage of Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) of the above four States in 2003-04 (Actual).

State	Capital outlay as % of GFD
Bihar	45.3
Uttar Pradesh	56.0
Rajasthan	43.2
Madhya Pradesh	36.6

(e) During the period 2000-01 to 2004-05, Gol operated a Fiscal Reform Facility for incentivising the States to undertake fiscal reforms for restoring their fiscal health. Recognizing the need to lower the debt servicing costs of the States, Gol also operated a debt swap scheme until recently. Consequent to the Twelfth Finance Commission's (TFC) recommendation for debt consolidation and relief, as part of restructuring of the States' finances, Gol is now operating a Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility that would enable the States to avail themselves of the benefit of reduced repayment of principal amounts and interest payments. These benefits would be available to the States, provided they enact a Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management legislation aimed at eliminating the revenue deficit and reducing the fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 2008-09. Also in operation is a debt waiver scheme under which States would be eligible for waiver of the principal repayments after consolidation due from fiscal year 2005-06 to 2009-10, to the extent of reduction in revenue deficit.

In order to avail the Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility and achieve debt sustainability in the medium term, 19 States including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have enacted Fiscal Responsibility Legislation and drawn up Fiscal Correction Path to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 2008-09. With the elimination of revenue deficit, the States are expected to create more fiscal space to undertake developmental expenditure.

To bring down the States debt to a sustainable level, Government of India is applying the provisions of Article 293(3) of the Constitution, very judiciously, while giving the approval to the States' borrowing proposals. In this connection Gol has also been imposing annual borrowing ceiling of the States.

Higher devolution by way of share in central taxes and duties, revenue deficit grants and grants to weaker States to meet the requirements of expenditure in social sector should supplement the resources of States.

Gol has also increased its financial support under central sector and centrally sponsored schemes to the States for filling critical gaps in social sectors and infrastructure including health, education, nutrition, power, irrigation and roads.

These measures are aimed at increasing the expenditure and quality of investment in priority sectors besides generally improving the financial health of the States.

[English]

Agreement with Countries to Fight Terrorism

*473. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sought help from several foreign countries to fight terrorism in the country;

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

(c) whether any final agreements have been signed with the foreign countries in this regard during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which these have been helpful in combating the above menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) While India has the will and the capacity to combat all acts of terror within our territory, it has been the consistent position of the Government that unwavering international resolve is required to deal effectively with the transnational and international dimensions of this

problem. Accordingly, India has cooperated with a number of countries to counter transnational terrorism. A number of Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism have been set up with other countries; details are given in the Statement enclosed. India has also played an influential role at the United Nations in shaping international opinion on combating terrorism. India has also been taking the initiative since 1996 for the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) by the United Nations. This Convention endorses the principle that no terrorist act should be justified on any grounds including ideological, religious, racial or any other. The Heads of State/Government at the High Level Plenary Meeting at the start of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 14-16 September 2005 also stressed the "need to make all efforts to reach an agreement on and conclude a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism". While there is wide support for this initiative a consensus for its adoption has so far eluded the membership of the United Nations General Assembly.

(c) and (d) The Joint Working Groups established have been helpful in the fight against transnational terrorism. These have enhanced, *inter alia*, cooperation in the following areas:

- (i) Information sharing;
- (ii) Capacity building;
- (iii) Inter-Agency cooperation;
- (iv) Development of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Statement

Details of Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism

Sl. No.	Name of Country	Year of setting up
1	2	3
1.	Egypt	1995
2.	Canada	1997
3.	Germany	1998
4.	U.K.	2000
5.	USA	2000
6.	France	2001
7.	E.U*	2001

1	2	3
8.	China	2002
9.	Israel	2002
10.	Kazakhstan	2002
11.	Russia	2002
12.	Croatia	2002
13.	Uzbekistan	2003
14.	Thailand	2003
15.	Turkey	2003
16.	Singapore	2003
17.	Australia	2003
18.	Tajikistan	2003
19.	BIMSTEC*	2004
20.	Mauritius	2004
21.	Indonesia	2004
22.	Myanmar	2004
23.	Poland	2004
24.	Japan	2005
25.	Cambodia	2005

*Regional Groups.

[Translation]

Training to Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

*474. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented by the Union Government for reorientation and imparting of training to the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabha;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose alongwith the shares of the Union Government and respective State Government during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to increase its share; and

(d) if so, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been implementing the "Panchayat Development & Training" scheme which aims at creating awareness and imparting training to representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) Funds are shared in the ratio of 75 : 25 between the Union Government and State Governments under the scheme. From the time of its coming into existence in May, 2004, this Ministry has allocated funds for this purpose as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Funds allocated
1.	2004-05	Rs. 6.21 crore
2.	2005-06	Rs. 19.36 crore

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to change the present ratio.

[English]

Amendments to Right to Information Act

*475. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Information Commission has asked the Union Government to amend the rules and make the payment affordable and simple for consumers for getting information via the RTI route as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated April 3, 2006;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government has undertaken or proposes to undertake a comprehensive review of the list of organizations that can be excluded from the purview of the Right to Information Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Central Information Commission has requested the Government to amend the rules so that payments could also be accepted in modes other than those currently prescribed.

(c) The matter is under examination.

(d) and (e) Proposals have been received from some organizations for their exclusion from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Government has, so far, not taken any decision on these proposals.

[Translation]

Indians in Pak Jails

*476. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners currently held captive in the jails of the respective countries, category-wise;

(b) the number of prisoners released by the two countries during the last one year and the current year;

(c) whether Indian fishing boats are held in Pakistan illegally;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release them;

(e) whether the Government has any proposals to cover Indian fishermen fishing in territorial waters under an insurance scheme;

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(g) the measures adopted to get the POWs, fishermen and civilians released from Pak jails?

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

to information available, there are 505 Indian fishermen, 150 civilian prisoners and 74 POWs in Pakistani jails. However, the Pakistan Government does not acknowledge the presence of any POWs in its jails.

There are 59 Pakistani fishermen in Indian jails. The information pertaining to the number of Pakistani civilian prisoners is being obtained from the authorities concerned. There are no POWs in Indian jails.

(b) In 2005, Pakistan released 1171 Indian fishermen and 125 civilian prisoners. No Indian prisoners have been released in 2006 so far.

In 2005, India released 222 Pakistani fishermen and 159 civilian prisoners. In 2006, India has released 16 Pakistani civilian prisoners till April 2006. Another 6 Pakistani civilian prisoners will be released on May 17, 2006.

(c) There are 287 Indian fishing boats in Pakistani custody which were detained during October 2003 to March 2006.

(d) Government has been consistently taking up the matter of release of Indian fishermen and boats with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high level contacts from time to time. India has also proposed to Pakistan on March 23, 2006, the release of all Indian and Pakistani fishermen, whose nationalities have been confirmed, along with their boats. However, there has been no response from the Pakistani side.

(e) and (f) The centrally sponsored insurance scheme for fishermen is under the control of Ministry of Agriculture. Under this all fishermen in marine and inland sector are covered against death, permanent/partial disability suffered during fishing. The insurance policies in respect of the beneficiaries from coastal States are shared equally between Centre and States while in respect of UTs, the insurance premium is borne fully by the Centre. National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) is the implementing agency. Compensation for death/permanent total disability is Rs. 50,000 and the cover for partial/permanent disability is Rs. 25,000.

(g) Government has been consistently pursuing the matter of release of all Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners with the Government of Pakistan.

In regard to POWs, Pakistan Government does not acknowledge the presence of any POWs in its jails. The issue has been taken up regularly with Pakistan Government.

A proposal to arrange a visit of relatives of missing defence personnel to various jails in Pakistan to facilitate identification of Indian POWs has been formally made to the Pakistan Government. Pakistan, however, has expressed skepticism over the utility of such a visit.

[English]

Revival of 20-Point Programme

*477. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to revive the 20-Point Programme;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the revised programme would replace any other programme introduced by the centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) is in existence and the Question of its revival does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to replace any other programme introduced by the Government of India with the Twenty Point Programme.

Allocation of Coal Mines

*478. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present allocation process of coal mines is susceptible to alleged corruption due to lack of transparency as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated April 6, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to change the present system of allocation of coal mines;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) to (e) At present, allocation of coal blocks for captive mining is made through a Screening Committee which has representation, *inter alia*, from the related Central Ministries and State Governments. After hearing the applicants individually, the Screening Committee makes the selection in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in this behalf. In order to make the system even more transparent and objective in the context of increasing applicants and declining number of blocks available, a proposal to introduce a competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use is under consideration of the Government. Since adoption of the proposed competitive bidding process will require a legislative amendment, it will not be possible to indicate a specific time frame in the matter.

Heart Diseases among Children

*479. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to come out with a national policy on congenital heart diseases and adopt an action plan to provide treatment to children suffering from heart diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any training to doctors for treating heart diseases, developing new treatment procedures and creating awareness among parents to prevent such diseases among children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A congenital heart defect is a structural problem (or defect) in the heart that is present at birth. A baby's heart begins to

develop shortly after conception. During development, structural defects can occur. These defects can involve the walls of the heart, the valves of the heart and the arteries and veins near the heart. Congenital heart defects can disrupt the normal flow of blood through the heart. According to AIIMS, the incidence of congenital heart disease is about 0.8/1000 live births. A large number of babies are born with congenital heart disease in the country. Many of them require specialized care by paediatric cardiologists and by cardiac surgeons who are specially trained in paediatric heart surgery. At present, there is no proposal for National Policy on congenital Heart Disease. However, the Government propose to initiate and implement a National Programme for the Prevention and control of Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) and Diabetes to reduce the adverse health impact of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes. Draft National CVD, Diabetes and Stroke Control Programme, which was submitted to Planning Commission earlier, is being updated to make it comprehensive. The National Programme would be operational after completion of the procedures including the approval of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The benefits out of this programme would include reduction in the case of heart diseases, diabetes as well as their timely treatment avoiding further complication. The training of doctors is being planned under the proposed programme.

National Board of Examination is conducting 2 years fellowship programme in paediatric cardiology in select hospitals in India.

Safety of Indians in Afghanistan

*480. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of engineers, doctors and other workers of Indian origin are working in Afghanistan currently;

(b) if so, whether security arrangements for these workers are sufficient in that country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an Indian engineer was allegedly killed by Taliban Militia recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of workers of Indian origin in that country killed during the last three years;

(f) whether compensation has been paid by the Government to the families of the victims; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure adequate safety and security of the Indian workers in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) There are approximately 2000 Indian nationals, including some engineers and doctors, working in Afghanistan currently.

(b) and (c) Indians engaged in Government of India aid projects are provided security by the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of India under bilateral arrangements. Those working with international agencies, private companies and the Government of Afghanistan are provided security by their respective employers. Such workers are advised to insist on satisfactory security arrangements from their employers and to also comply with security instructions.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An Indian engineer, Shri K. Suryanarayan was killed by the Taliban on the night of 29 April 2006. During the last three years, four Indian workers have been killed in Afghanistan. In the first incident in November, 2003, Shri Sanjeev Devar working for an Indian company was shot dead by assailants at his house. In the second incident, an official of Border Roads Organisation, Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty was kidnapped and killed on 22 November 2005. Shri K. Bharath Kumar, who was working for a US-based company was killed in a land mine blast on 7 February 2006 along with nationals of two other countries.

(f) Government of India has paid terminal benefits and compensation to the next of kin of the late Shri Maniappan Raman Kutty, a Government of India official from Border Roads Organisation. In the case of Shri K. Suryanarayan, Prime Minister gave a grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs for the education of his children. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also gave a grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs. In respect of the employees of private companies, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the employing company pays all dues and compensation as per rules.

(g) Government of India is in close touch with the Government of Afghanistan to share our concerns on such incidents and to ensure full security for Indians working in Afghanistan. A Security advisory was issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul to all Indians and their companies working in Afghanistan soon after the killing of the BRO official in November 2005. Additional security personnel have been deployed at the BRO's road project locations. Subsequently, the Embassy has held meetings with representatives of Indian companies to emphasise the need for observing security precautions strictly. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sites of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security is provided for Indian nationals.

Government reviews the security arrangements with concerned Ministries and agencies regularly to ensure the safety of Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

Rating System for Hospitals

*481. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to launch a rating system for private and public hospitals as reported in the *Times of India* dated April 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the purpose therefor;

(c) the manner in which the Government plans to ensure that the poor patients also get treatment in high rated hospitals; and

(d) the time by which the rating system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) There are various mechanisms by which quality of services and care provided by hospitals and other health care institutions can be assessed. Some of these are Accreditation, Certification and Rating. Concerned health institutions obtain these quality benchmarks depending on their own

requirement and the requirement of clients they serve. Government of India has taken the view that Accreditation etc. is to be purely a voluntary process and, therefore, should be left to independent specialist agencies outside the Government set up. There can also be more than one agency that could undertake such accreditation, certification or rating. Such agencies will fix their own standards. The Quality Council of India, which is an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has set up a National Accreditation Board of Hospital (NABH).

The purpose of accreditation/rating is to assure the patients about the quality of services available in the accredited hospital.

Charter of Rights and Duties for Medical Personnel/Patients

3845. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring out a charter of rights and duties for medical personnel and patients in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the charter is likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has advised the medical institutions/hospitals working under its control to formulate Citizens' Charter including rights of the users of health services and duties of service providers. The duties and responsibilities of medical professionals vis a vis patients are also regulated by the provisions contained in "Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations 2002".

Revival of ITI

3846. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any plan to revive the ailing public sector telecom company ITI having its manufacturing units all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has sanctioned a revival package amounting to Rs. 1024.77 crore during December, 2004. The salient features of the revival package are as under:

(i)	Reimbursement/expenditure towards Voluntary Retirement Scheme	Rs. 558.00 crore
(ii)	Payment of Provident Fund dues	Rs. 93.10 crore
(iii)	Capital Expenditure	Rs. 150.00 crore
(iv)	Equity Infusion	Rs. 200.00 crore
(v)	Waiver of interest/Penal interest on Government of India loan	Rs. 23.67 crore
TOTAL		Rs. 1024.77 crore

Illegal Telephone Exchange

3847. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has lost Rs. 8 crore revenue due to the alleged setting up of illegal telephone exchange by the officials of the former at Nagpur city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against officials involved in the said racket; and

(d) the steps taken by the BSNL to stop such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Approximate revenue loss assessed as Rs. 7,75,40,768.

(b) Details are as under:

- * Thadipawani Exchange: 16879196 units x Rs. 1.20/unit = Rs. 2,02,55,035
 - * Wadvihira Exchange: 47738111 units x Rs. 1.20/unit = Rs. 5,72,85,733
- Total = Rs. 7,75,40,768

(c) On the basis of Police detention, following officials have been suspended from the service:

1. Shri J.T. Khobragade, SDE, Narkhede SDCA
2. Shri R.S. Chahande, JTO, Bharsingi Exchange
3. Shri G.P. Gulhane, TTA, Bharsingi Exchange
4. Shri S.R. Meshram, Phone Mechanic, Wadvihira Exchange
5. Shri V.D. Patil, Phone Mechanic, Thadipawani Exchange

(d) Necessary steps have been taken by the BSNL to stop recurrence of such type of cases in future:

1. For a permanent solution, conversion of such independent 256 P C-DOT exchanges into AN RAX and SBMs to RSU is under process in BSNL. About 90% of such exchanges have already been converted till date.
2. In addition to above, instructions to prevent leakage of revenue through TAXs/ spare levels, routing of calls to private BSOs from TAXs, connectivity of C-DOT 256 P RAXs using digital trunks and proper monitoring of exchanges are being issued time to time.
3. ISD access to isolated 256 P-C-DOT exchanges has been temporarily barred in Nagpur, till these are converted into AN-RAXs.

National Road Safety Policy

3848. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the National Road Safety Policy drafted in 1992;

(b) whether the said Policy is still under the consideration of the Government;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Road Safety

Policy drafted in 1992 was endorsed by the National Road Safety council in its meeting held on 22-12-1994.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Mismanagement In CGHS Dispensaries

3849. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding supply of wrong medicines or non-issue of specific medicines, mismanagement, irregularities and non-indenting of local purchase medicines etc. to the CGHS beneficiaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last two years and the current year, dispensary-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the said complaints including the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such irregularities in CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes sir, there were complaints from CGHS beneficiaries in respect of supply of specific medicines in CGHS Delhi. Details' regarding complaints received during the last two years and current year as per records available is in the Statement enclosed.

Most of these complaints are regarding non-availability of authorised local Chemists, supply of alternate brands of medicines by the dispensaries and behaviour of the Local Chemists.

(c) Appropriate actions have been initiated against the erring officials as a deterrent measure to avoid such mistakes in future.

A new panel of Chemists have been appointed with effect from 1.4.2006. The medicines having the same chemical composition but with different brand name, if available in the dispensary, can not be indented/purchased through the local authorised chemists.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Dispensary and date of complaint	The details & nature of complaint received from Jan 2004 to till	Details of action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Sarojini Nagar 11.3.2004	Against chemist for improper supply of medicines	Chemist advised to follow the laid down procedure.
2.	Laxmi Nagar 7.4.2004	Delay in supply of indented medicine	Delay occurs due to two consecutive non-working days.
3.	Pragati Vihar 13.5.2004	Against M/s. Satnam & Sons for supply of tab Caverta	Complainant withdrew his complaint.
4.	Gole Market 26.7.2004	Issuance of indented medicines	Medicines prescribed by OPD of private hospitals are not admissible for indent except for peripheral towns
5.	Sunder Vihar 21.9.2004	Issue of medicine "Sinamet CR"	Other brand is available in dispensary, beneficiary not prepared to take that.
6.	North Avenue 8.12.2004	Non supply of local purchase medicines from Ayurvedic dispensary North Avenue	Under process.
7.	R.K. Puram, Sec-2 20.12.2004	Non availability of local chemist	Chemist has been appointed to supply the indented medicines.
8.	Laxmibai Nagar 22.1.2005	Facilitation for issuance of unpruned quantities of medicines indented/procured for chronic ailments.	Complainant withdrew his complaint.
9.	South Avenue 22.2.2005	Shortage of Unani medicine	Under process
10.	Rohini 23.2.2005	Request for supply of medicines by brand name	Medicines cannot be indented by brand name as per guidelines.
11.	Rajouri Garden 10.3.2005	Against Vikas Chemists for corruption in supply of medicines	Complaint has been settled amicably.
12.	M.B. Road 14.3.2005	Issuance of wrong medicine	The concerned officials were cautioned.
13.	Sunder Vihar 21.3.2005	Difficulty in getting medicines through indent	Complaint could not be substantiated.
14.	Janakpuri II 21.3.2005	Irrational behaviour of local chemist M/s Lal Sons	Chemist apologizes and ensure that this type of behaviour will not repeated in future.

1	2	3	4
15.	Janakpuri I 30.4.2005	Not indenting the medicine prescribed by Specialist of RML Hospital	Complainant requested to bring the original photocopy issued by dispensary when visit dispensary for indent.
16.	Gurgaon 20.5.2005	Supplying wrong medicine through dispensary	Complainant withdrew his complaint.
17.	Andrews Ganj 6.6.2005	Against M/s. Sachdeva Medical Store for non supply of medicine	There was no chemist at that time, beneficiaries were advised to purchase the medicines & get reimbursement. New panel of chemist appointed.
18.	Kali Bahri Marg 8.6.2005	Issue of prescribed medicines only instead of alternate/substitute	Dispensary supplied the available medicine provided by MSD
19.	Rajouri Garden 29.6.2005	Less indent of medicine due to Staff's fault	One medicine was NA with the Chemist so complainant was advised to purchase it and get reimbursement.
20.	Ghaziabad 4.7.2005	Against M/s Ankey Medicos for deducting 8% from bills	Complaint could not be substantiated.
21.	Kingsway Camp 2.12.2005	5-7 days delay in issue of indented medicine	Medicines are disbursed to the beneficiaries on 3rd or maximum 4th day of submission of prescription.
22.	Noida 1.1.2006	A to Z supplied by CGHS is not same/equal to Davit	Under process
23.	Motibagh 31.1.2006	Supply of indented medicines	There was no chemist attached with dispensary so beneficiaries were advise to purchase the medicines & get reimbursement
24.	Srinivaspuri 1.3.2006	Against M/s Lucky Pharmaceuticals for refusal to supply the medicine	Complaint could not be substantiated.
25.	Rajpur Road 3.3.2005	Against M/s Satyawati Drugs & Departmental Store for non supply of indented medicine	New chemist M/s. Sethi Medicose has been appointed.
26.	Sarojini Nagar (UMSD) 20.3.2006	Corruption in billing of indent of local purchase of unani medicine	Complaint found pseudonyms as letter sent to complainant was returned back.
27.	Parliament House Annexe March-2006	Non-availability of medicines for diabetic patients at Medical Center, Parliament House Annexe on 9th and 10th March, 2006	Most of the diabetic medicines are available in the Parliament House Annexe. In case a particular brand is not available, same is procured through local chemist for Hon'ble MPs and deliver the same at their residence by courier.

1	2	3	4
28.	North Avenue 3.4.2006	Non-availability of local purchased medicines	Under Process.
29.	Rohini 7.4.2006	Mismanagement, irregularities and non-indenting of local purchase medicines	Dispensary was functioning properly, no mismanagement/irregularity was found.
30.	Kalkaji II 28.4.2006	Delay in supply of indented medicine	Under process
31.	Kalkaji I 9.5.2006	Delay in supply of indented medicine	Complainant withdrew his complaint.

[Translation]

Satellite for Sea Vessles

3850. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to launch a separate satellite for monitoring sea vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be given approval by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey on Health Sector by NCAER

3851. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey/study has been conducted by the National Council for Applied Economic Research on the directions of the World Trade Organisation in the field of health services in India;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

[English]

Concessions to Overseas Indians

3852. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of concessions extended to Overseas Indians at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce more concessions for Overseas Indians;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said concessions are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Broadly Overseas Indians are considered at par with Non-Resident Indians in terms of tax exemptions, investment, education, etc. Government has introduced Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) Scheme by which OCIs are entitled to multiple-entry, multi-purpose, life-long visas with no requirement of registration with police and eligibility to work in the private sector and parity with NRIs in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in acquisition of agricultural and plantation properties. An upgraded Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana 2006 has been implemented from February 2006 to provide for broader coverage to the emigrant workers.

(b) There are no schemes proposed at present.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Diverting Farm Subsidies for Infrastructure Development

3853. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to divert farm subsidies for infrastructure development;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the adverse consequences of this move on farmers;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Planning Commission at present to divert farm subsidies for infrastructure development. The Planning Commission in the mid term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, has, however, emphasized the need for infrastructure development in rural areas.

(c) to (e) The questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Availability of Trained Midwives/Nurses

3854. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of trained midwives/nurses available in various States varies from State to State;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the uniform availability of trained midwives/nurses in all the States;

(d) whether the United Nations has fixed any criteria with regard to the health safety;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the aforesaid criteria is being followed in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) 5.06 lakhs Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and 8.65 lakhs General Nurses and Midwives have been registered with various State Nursing Councils up to 31st March, 2004. State-wise information is at Statement enclosed.

A sum of Rs. 82 Crores has been allocated during the X Plan period under the Development of Nursing Services. The following activities have been undertaken during the X Plan period:

- Opening of College of Nursing at JIPMER Pondicherry.
- Upgrading the School of Nursing into College of Nursing attached to Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjang Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospital.
- Strengthening of RAK College of Nursing as a "Centre of Excellence".
- One time financial assistance to the State Governments for upgrading the School of Nursing into College of Nursing attached to Medical Colleges.
- Contractual Appointment of additional ANMs and staff nurses under the Reproductive & Child Health (RCH-II) Programme.

(d) to (g) Promotion of health safety is one of the priority areas of WHO for which various guidelines have been published by WHO including Safe Injection Practices, Safe Waste Management and Hand Hygiene in Health Care. Guidelines for various health safety measures are being followed in the country.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

Total no. of nurses registered in different State Nursing Councils as on 31st March 2004

S.No.	States and Union Territory	Registered nurses in respective State Nursing Registered Council	
		A.N.M.	G.N.M.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94395	84306
2.	Assam	12589	10321
3.	Bihar	7501	8883
4.	Chhattisgarh	93	179
5.	Delhi	355	2594
6.	Gujarat	35840	85796
7.	Haryana	13112	15821
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9087	7920
9.	Jharkhand	15	10
10.	Karnataka	47407	54762
11.	Kerala	27612	71589
12.	Mahakoshal	25344	92331
13.	Maharashtra	25690	81983
14.	Mizoram	1411	1301
15.	Orissa	30213	46090
16.	Punjab	17389	43470
17.	Rajasthan	22239	35482
18.	Tamil Nadu	52819	159525
19.	Tripura	969	641
20.	U.P. & Uttaranchal	26959	17479
21.	West Bengal	55858	44652
22.	Chandigarh		
Total		506924	865135

ANM: Auxiliary Nurse Medwives.

GNM: General Nursing and Midwives.

Cancer Department of Kota Medical College

3855. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cancer Control Board has recommended to expand the Cancer Department of Kota Medical College, Kota (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the said proposal;

(d) if so, the amount likely to be provided for the said purpose; and

(e) the details of the works likely to be undertaken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Standing Committee on Radiotherapy Development Programme which met under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services recommended for sanctioning of financial assistance of Rs. 2.04 crore for Development of Oncology wing in the Kota Medical College, Rajasthan. Accordingly a sanction for Rs. 2.04 crore in favour of Medical College, Kota, Rajasthan for procurement of HDR Brachytherapy and Simulator Machine has already been issued.

[English]

Bringing Back Articles of Sikh Gurus

3856. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to take up the matter with the UK Government regarding returning of important articles relating to the lives of Sikh Gurus preserved in the British Museum in London; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No Sir.

[*Translation*]

Assessment of Requirement of Telephone Equipments

3857. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any estimate regarding requirement of telephone equipments for providing landline telephone connections and mobile connections in the urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure availability of telephone equipments to exhaust the waiting list; and

(d) the time by which the connection on demand is likely to be provided?

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

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to meet demand for landline connection in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (except for Mumbai) from the existing capacity as well as deploying Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). Equipment requirement estimated by BSNL is as follows:

State/Telecom Circle	Estimated Equipment	
	WLL Equipment	Cellular Mobile Equipment
Uttar Pradesh	2,83,500	16,00,000
Madhya Pradesh	4,21,500	9,00,000
Maharashtra (except Mumbai)	5,09,000	18,00,000

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has planned to add one million capacity for providing total five lakh connections (landline & WLL + Cellular mobile) each in Delhi and Mumbai during the year 2006-07 to meet telephone requirements.

(c) and (d) BSNL is augmenting its mobile network so that mobile connections becomes available on demand by the end of current financial year. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment are also planned in sufficient number so that most of the waiting list as on 31.3.2006 is cleared within the current financial year. As regard MTNL, there is no waiting list for any type of telephone connection in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai.

Indo-Norway Agreement in Shipping Sector

3858. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Norway has proposed for a comprehensive agreement in the field of "Shipping and Ship Construction"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A draft agreement on Maritime Transport between Norway and India has been received from the Norwegian side. The agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in maritime transport areas such as vessels and port facilities, multimodal transport, cabotage, commercial presence, recognition of seafarers identity documents, crew movement, training of personnel etc. However, it does not propose cooperation in the field of ship construction. The agreement is being examined.

[*English*]

Inspection of Medical College

3859. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India had criticized the Medical Council of India for intentionally delaying Inspection of the Government Medical College at Theni;

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

(c) whether the Supreme Court of India has taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its last order dated 8.3.2006 in SLP (C) No. 21029/2005 relating to grant of permission to Government Medical College, Theni, which was under consideration for grant of permission for the academic session 2005-06 passed the following directions:

"In so far as the controversy in relation of academic year 2005-06 is concerned, it has only academic interest now and we need not examine it. In respect of the present academic year 2006-07, Mr. Maninder Singh, learned counsel, states that, as desired by the college, the inspection would be carried out in March, 2006, and it can be pre-poned in case it is agreeable to the college. The learned counsel for the college will inform Mr. Maninder Singh, Mr. Maninder Singh will inform the court on the next date of hearing as to by what time the report would be sent to the Central Government with recommendations and deficiencies, if any, pointed out to the college as well"

Accordingly, the MCI conducted inspection of the college on 30th & 31st March, 2006 and based on the facilities available, MCI have recommended to the Central Government for grant of permission for establishment of Government Medical College at Theni during the year 2006-07

Infant and Neo-natal Mortality

3860. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Tenth Five Year Plan has failed to check infant and neo-natal mortality;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to include this in the Eleventh Plan;

(c) if so, whether a meeting was recently organized by the Planning Commission, the UNICEF and the Institute of Human Development in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether experts have pointed out that focus from child health should shift to child mortality reduction in the Eleventh Plan;

(f) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been worked out to improve the current position; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) No Sir. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), including Neonatal Mortality Rate, has declined from 66 per 1000 live births in 2001 to 58 per 1000 live births in 2004 and the Neonatal Mortality Rate has declined from 40 in 2001 to 37 in 2003, as per the latest available Sample Registration System data of the office of the Registrar General of India

The Planning Commission has accorded high priority in the 10th Five Year Plan to address high level of Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rate prevailing in the country. Various strategies and schemes are in place such as Reproductive and Child Health programme to address various bottlenecks and suggest corrective measures to reduce IMR and Neonatal Mortality Rates through a holistic approach. Within this programme the integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy has been initiated. It offers comprehensive management of the most common causes of neonatal and childhood mortality—sepsis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, measles and malaria, all compounded by malnutrition. IMNCI shall be implemented through out the country in a phased manner. In addition, thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health care personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns get specialized care. The National Rural Health Mission launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) has envisaged reduction in Infant Mortality and Neonatal Mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.

The Planning Commission is also in the process of constituting Steering Committees/Working Group for the 11th Five Year Plan to address to current status of Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates as well as suggesting various innovative measures to reduce IMR and Neonatal Mortality Rates.

The Women and Child Development Division of Planning Commission and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the support of Institute of Human Development, New Delhi organized a National Consultation on "Priorities of Children in 11th Plan" on 18-19 January, 2006. The experts expressed their concern regarding slow progress in some of the goals for children. The Consultation was held basically to get inputs for the Working Group on Children for the 11th Five Year Plan. The initiatives being implemented for child health under the National Rural Health Mission shall focus on the concerns expressed by the experts and in the Eleventh Plan, address the issue of infant and neonatal mortality in conformance with the national goals.

Assistance for Software Export

3861. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has submitted a proposal seeking assistance for the growth of software export in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has requested Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) an autonomous society under the Department of IT, Ministry of Communications and IT, Government of India to set up two centres in Gulbarga and Belgaum.

(c) It was decided to set up a STPI centre at Gulbarga.

Allotment of Coal Blocks

3862. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated new guidelines for allotment of coal block to the core sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) At present, allocation of coal blocks for captive mining is made through a Screening Committee which has representations, *inter alia*, from the related Central Ministries, and State Government also. After hearing the applicants individually, the Screening Committee makes the selection in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in this behalf. These guidelines are modified from time to time based on experience and necessity and are placed on the web-site of the Ministry of Coal. In order to make the system even more transparent and objective, a proposal to introduce a competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use has been mooted.

Construction of CGHS Dispensary

3863. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of land made available to the CGHS for the construction of dispensary in Ashok Vihar, Delhi, the Government has not taken concrete steps to construct the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to start construction of dispensary in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Architectural drawings were submitted to MCD for approval, it wanted zonal plan of DDA indicating change in its land use from Nursery School to CGHS building. The needed documents were submitted to MCD on 29/04/2006. Further action to construct the building will be only after the approval of MCD is received.

Extending Period of LTC to Srinagar

3864. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to extend the air facility between New Delhi and Srinagar beyond June 15, 2006 for availing LTC by the Central Government Group 'A' and 'B' employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) At present Government is not considering any proposal to extend the air facility for availing LTC between New Delhi and Srinagar beyond 15th June, 2006.

Sports Academies

3865. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Sports Academies set up in the States including in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the functions of such Sports Academies?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The State Sports Academy Scheme envisages setting up State Sports Academy with joint funding by the Central Government, State Government/UT Administration and a Sponsor as a co-operative venture. The main objective of the Scheme is to select the best available talent in sports between the age group of 10-13 years, as well as, the top performers in State/National competitions in the age group of 10-18 years, and to prepare and groom them over the years for winning medals for the country at the international level.

Although the Scheme is several years old, no sports academy has been set under this Scheme till date for want of viable proposals from the States. The Scheme is, therefore, being reconsidered. There are, however, various private academies working in some States.

Adequate Research Facilities for Ayurveda

3866. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ayurveda System of Medicine has been provided adequate research facilities for its promotion and development;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the last financial year by the Government;

(c) whether number of research centres are sufficient for the development of this system and proper method is in place for selecting researchers in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has established the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), exclusively for carrying out Research and Development in the Ayurveda and Siddha Systems of Medicine. Apart from the research activities being carried out by the CCRAS, through its 38 research units, other Institutions, namely, National Institute for Ayurveda, Jaipur, Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar etc. are also carrying out research activities in the field of Ayurveda. During the year 2005-06, the Government has initiated a Golden Triangle Project (GTP) wherein Department of AYUSH, CSIR & ICMR are working together to develop Ayurvedic Medicine for the identified diseases of National Importance. Work on Rasayana medicines and Arthritis, sleep disorder, memory disorder, urinary disorder and cardiac disorders have been started. It is proposed to carry forward this research programme in the 11th Five Year Plan as well.

[Translation]

Schemes for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions

3867. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes run by the Union Government to impart training and create awareness among the permanent members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram-Sabhas;

(b) whether any amount is also being provided by the Union Government for this purpose;

(c) if so, the ratio of sharing between the Union Government and State Government concerned for the purpose;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to increase its share for these schemes; and

(e) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj runs the "Panchayat Development & Training" scheme which aims at creating awareness and imparting training to representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj provided a budgetary allocation of Rs. 19.40 crores under the scheme during 2005-06 out of which funds amounting to Rs. 19.36 crores were released for the purpose.

(c) to (e) The ratio of sharing between the Union Government and the State Government concerned is 75 : 25. There is no proposal to change this ratio.

[English]

Shortfall of Medical Personnel in Health Sector

3868. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake a survey regarding availability of the facilities of the public health institutions in the country in the background of reported imbalance between the growing chronic & communicable diseases like Malaria, T.B., Cancer, HIV/AIDS etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the study conducted by the Mckensy & Company, there is large scale shortfall of medical personnel in PHCs, Sub-centres etc.;

(d) if so, the salient features of the said study; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There is no specific survey being carried out regarding the facilities of the public health institutes in the country as the availability of resources to train qualified public health manpower is already known. McKinsey & company had done a study to identify some of the supply and demand side issues concerning availability of trained public health manpower.

Based on their estimates, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has prepared a public-private partnership proposal for setting up Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH) for training public health personnel. The Government of India proposes to give a one-time grant of upto Rs. 65 crore to the Rs. 200 crore PHFI corpus. The rest of the fund is being generated through Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other high net worth Indian/Foreign philanthropic contributors.

Bringing out of Telephone Directories

3869. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) the names of cities for which the MTNL brings out telephone directories;

(b) when the last directories were brought out in respect of these cities;

(c) whether for the last several years no telephone directories have been brought out in respect of these cities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the next issue of telephone directory for each of these cities is likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) brings out telephone directories for Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) and (c)

(i) For Delhi, the last Main Telephone Directory was issued in 1999. Supplementary Directory was issued in 2001.

(ii) For Mumbai, the last Main Telephone Directory was issued in 2000. Supplementary Directory was issued in 2002.

(d) The reasons for delay in bringing out telephone directories by MTNL are as below:

MTNL, Delhi – Due to change in the guidelines for the directory printing schedule, the tender during 2004 had to be cancelled. Decision of MTNL to cancel the tender process was challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by one of the bidders. MTNL was restrained by the Hon'ble Court from issuing NIT. On 11-01-2006, the Court dismissed the case. New tender is scheduled to be floated and finalized in 2006-07.

MTNL, Mumbai – Due to change in the guidelines for the directory printing schedule, tender floated on 10-03-2003 for printing of telephone directory was cancelled. A fresh tender was floated again as per revised schedule. This tender was cancelled due to technical reason. A fresh tender has been floated on 12-01-2006. Evaluation of tender is under process.

(e) The next issue of Telephone Directory is planned to be brought out in 2007-08 for Delhi and 2006-07 for Mumbai.

Extending Postal Facilities Through a Franchising Scheme

3870. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal for extending postal facilities through a franchising scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formal discussion held on this issue with the Federations/Unions of the department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Postal network consists of 1,55,516 Post offices (as on 31.3.2005). In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan for attaining financial self-sufficiency and consequently for rationalization of the postal network. Targets for opening of new Post Offices are not being assigned since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening a post office is found, it can only be opened by

relocation of an existing post office, which is no longer justified on the Departmental norms in its present location. In order to improve access to postal facilities in areas where there is a demand and justification but it is not possible to open a post office by relocation, the Department is considering a proposal for a franchise scheme. The details of the franchise scheme are also under consideration.

(c) and (d) An interaction has been held with several Federations/Unions/Associations to apprise them of the proposal. As a result of the interaction, the Department has been able to understand their viewpoint, and will take note of it while formulating the proposal.

Fund Allocation to States

3871. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to redefine the Central fund allocation to States by reducing population weight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new formula has been chalked out for fund allocation to States; 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) A number of parameters including population are considered while deciding on Central fund allocations to the States in the health sector. There are certain specific schemes like maintenance of Sub-Centres where the allocation is made in terms of the infrastructure created over the Plans and the norms that have been laid down based on 1991 population. In the case of Disease Control Programmes, allocations made are based on a mix of various factors namely population, prevalence of the disease, etc.

To have a better impact, a number of schemes have been merged under the over-arching umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of which the Reproductive Child Health Programme Phase-II (RCH II) forms an

important constituent. The funds for this programme have been earmarked based on the Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) prepared by the States/UTs and appraised by the Government of India.

The States having poor public health systems and also weak key health indicators, called Empowered Action Group (EAG) States, namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal; two hilly States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, and the whole of North-Eastern Region including Sikkim have been given special emphasis in the allocation of funds to improve the capacity of the health system to bring all round improvement in public health services.

Similarly, with the launch of National Rural Health Mission, while making allocations for the Scheme of Mission Flexible Pool, the same criteria as for RCH-II has been adopted.

Population continues to remain an important parameter, however, additionally health indicators have also been given an important place with the launch of National Rural Health Mission to make healthcare delivery more effective and healthcare services accessible and affordable to the rural poor.

Conversion of NHs Into Two Lane

3872. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the national highways have been made two-lane;

(b) if not, the length of national highways which are still one-lane;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make them two-lane; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be done alongwith the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, all the National Highways are not two lane.

(b) About 22949 Km length of National Highways are below 2-lane standard.

(c) and (d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and the selection of National Highways (NH) for development and upgradation is based on the traffic and its growth, condition of the National Highway, inter-se priority and availability of funds. There is a proposal for widening of 20,000 Km of National Highways to two lanes with paved shoulders under the programme of NHDP Phase-IV. The details for this programme have not been finalised.

Missing of Marine Engineers

3873. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether a number of Marine Engineers are allegedly missing from high seas as reported in *Nav Bharat Times* dated May 20, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of Marine Engineers gone missing during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government has given any assistance to the families of these missing Marine Engineers;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Nav Bahrat Times dated 20th October 2005 (and not 20th May, 2005 as stated in the Question) have reported about missing/disappearance of the following marine engineers:

1. Shri Ashu Mallick
2. Shri R. Ali Zahdi
3. Shri Inderjeet Singh
4. Shri Hasan Zaheer
5. Shri Gautam Mallick

(b) Shri Ashu Malik and Shri Gautam Mallick were not Marine Engineers but Shri Hasan Zaheer and Shri Inderjeet Singh were employed as Marine Engineers. Sufficient information about Shri R. Ali Zahdi is not available to conclude whether he has gone missing. Details are available in the Statement-I enclosed

(c) The number of engineers missing since 2003 is as under:

Year	No. of Engineers Missing
2003	1
2004	Nil
2005	4
2006	Nil

(d) to (f) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(g) and (h) In case of disappearance of Engine Room Petty Officer, Shri A. Arun Kumar in 2003 from ship MT Havildar Abdul Hameed the Shipping Corporation of India has the responsibility to settle compensation in accordance with agreement as per law. Since he went missing in 2003, the payments could be made to his family only after 7 years of the incident. As regards four engineers missing in the year 2005 from Jupiter-6 and MSC Carman ships, the action about payments to the families of the victims is to be taken by the respective Shipping Companies. Both the Shipping Companies are not registered in India. In such cases, it is the duty of flag state to conduct inquiry into the incidents. All possible efforts have been made by the Government to have enquiries conducted in both these cases.

(i) The following steps have been taken to provide protection to seafarers at sea:

- (1) In all Indian flag vessels casualties are investigated immediately to isolate the causes behind such incidents in order to introduce systemic improvement and preventive measures.

- (2) A psychometric test has been introduced at the entry level of officers in maritime training courses, which help in determining his/her attitude and aptitude for the sea. It assists in taking corrective measures to mentally prepare seamen for rigours of a life at sea.
- (3) The Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Rules, 2005 have been framed. The registration and licensing of manning agents has been made mandatory under these rules so as to be able to introduce a sense of responsibility among manning agents and obtain details of seamen's placement.
- (4) The issue of crime on board foreign flag vessels and need for international cooperation in tackling it has been raised and agitated at international fora.
- (5) The International Maritime Organisation, London has recently issued guidelines for adherence by all State parties for fair treatment of seafarer and for taking care of abandoned seafarers.

Statement I

Details of Investigations Conducted into the Incidents Reported in the Navbharat Times Dated 20th October, 2005

- (i) Shri Ashu Mallick

He was a student and trainee (Oiler). He was recruited through Arti Ship Management, Mumbai on board MV Prince- G, a ship belonging to M/s Sea Rock Shipping Ltd, Dubai. He has not signed the Indian Articles of Agreement. Shipping Master, Mumbai have informed that there was a cyclone in the rough sea and the vessel sank on 23.12.2002. The Search and Rescue operations were carried out by a Japanese vessel MT NICHIIHIKO. 6 persons out of a crew of 8 were rescued. Remaining 2 including Ashu Mallick could not be traced.

- (ii) Shri Inderjeet Singh

He was a 4th Engineer on board MV Bonita Light, a Hong Kong flag vessel owned by Golden Gate Company of Panama. He had not signed the Indian Article of Agreement with the employers. He died on 16th January, 2000 near the port of Dakar (Senegal). His father had filed a criminal Writ Petition No. 2685 of 2000

before the High Court of Delhi. It was disposed of by the High Court vide its order dated 2nd April, 2003 stating that in view of fact that the Government of Hong Kong has already conducted an enquiry into the matter nothing survives in the Writ Petition. The Court did not grant permission for institution of criminal proceedings against the respondents.

(iii) Shri Hasan Zaheer

He was a Marine Engineer had reportedly jumped over board when the vessel MSC Carmen, under Panama Flag, was en route to Mombassa on 12 October 2005. The Flag State Authority was requested by the Indian Maritime Administration to conduct investigation into the casualty. In the enquiry report submitted by the Flag State it has been indicated that there was an eye witness on board who saw Shri Hasan Zaheer jumping over board from port side poop deck (aft left hand side of the vessel). Indian manning agent is MSC Ship Management (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. The reasons for jumping over board could not be ascertained by the flag state authorities.

(iv) Shri Gautam Mallick

He was not a marine Engineer. He had reportedly fallen overboard from vessel's poop while checking after draft (depth marks) on 09.10.2005 when the vessel was in the port water of Klaipeda, Lithuania. His body was subsequently found. The Indian manning agent in this case is Ebony Ship Management Pvt. Ltd. The report of the investigations by the Flag State does not provide any information on foul play or malafide intention.

(v) Shri R. Ali Zahdi

The information in the news paper report regarding Shri Zahdi is insufficient to confirm if he has gone missing or died.

Statement II

Details of the Investigations Conducted into the Incidents that Happened During the Last Three Years and Findings Thereof

Year 2003

Only one incident was reported during 2003 in which one Engine Room Petty Officer Shri A. Arun Kumar went missing from ship M.T. Havildar Abdul Hameed PVC on

3.07.2003 when the vessel was at RAVVA Oil Field Anchorage - East Coast of India. The investigation was conducted by the Shipping Master, Kolkata on 7.7.2003. After due analysis of the statements of the crew and the logbook entries the inquiry officer concluded that the reason for disappearance of Mr. A. Arun Kumar could not be established.

Year 2004

No such incident reported.

Year 2005

(i) Jupiter - 6 was owned by Jupiter Ship management Inc. Majuro, Marshall Islands. This vessel was towing m.v. Pointing (unmanned) ex MV Satsung from West Coast of Africa and bound for Alang, India. There is no contact with the vessel since 5th September 2005. The vessel is reportedly missing from position 35.52.06 S 023. 25.9 E along with 10 Indians and 3 Ukrainians. Palican Shipping & Engineering Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai is the manning agent of Jupiter 6. The matter was taken up with the MRCC Cape Town who have reported that MV Satsang was spotted adrift by MV Poseidon. On orders from the South African Government she was reconnected to SMIT AMANDLA on 7th October, 2005. The tow was passed on 10th October, 2005 from SMIT AMANDLA to the tug Ruby Deliverer which has now arrived in India on 28th November, 2005 for demolition. Surveyor-in-charge of the Mercantile Marine Department at Jamnagar has carried out a fact finding inquiry from the crew of the vessel that finally towed MV Satsang. Of the ten members of Indian crew there are following three Engineers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mr. Surjit Singh | Chief Engineer |
| 2. Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma | 2nd Engineer |
| 3. Mr. Jose Mathew Kattampally | Elec. Engineer |

(ii) Shri Hasan Zaheer, a Marine Engineer on board MSC Carmen, Flag Panama had reportedly jumped over board when the vessel was en-route to Mombassa, Kenya on 12 October, 2005. The Flag State Authority has conducted an investigation. The report indicates that there was an eyewitness on board who saw Shri Hasan Zaheer jumping over board from port side poop deck (aft left hand side of the vessel). Indian Manning agent is MSC Ship Management (India) Pvt. LTd., Mumbai. The reasons for jumping over board could not be ascertained by the flag state authorities.

Year 2006 (till date)

No such incident reported so far.

Indebtedness in Rural Areas

3874. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted any survey recently to find out the average annual loan taken by the farmers;

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

(c) whether Incidences Of Indebtedness (IOI) has increased in rural areas as compared to the survey conducted in 1991;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has analysed the reasons for non-payment of loans by the farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) A 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' was conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 59th Round during January-December 2003. In this Survey, among other things, information was collected on the average amount of outstanding loan taken by the farmers, of which State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per 'All India Debt and Investment Survey' conducted by NSSO in its 59th Round during January-December 2003, the Incidences of Indebtedness (IOI) in rural areas have increased in 2002 as compared to the IOI in 1991. The percentage distribution of amount of cash dues by purpose on the basis of this survey indicates that in the rural areas the loan taken for productive purposes (capital expenditure and current expenditure) in farm and non-farm business have increased.

(d) to (f) According to the Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance (i) faulty crop patterns, (ii) natural calamities, (iii) non-remunerative prices, (iv) low yields, (v) fragmented land holdings, (vi) poor infrastructure etc. are some of the reasons responsible for nonpayment of loans taken by the farmers.

Statement

Average amount of outstanding loans (in Rs.) per farmer household in different States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Average amount of outstanding loans (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23965
2.	Arunahal Pradesh	493
3.	Assam	813
4.	Bihar	4476
5.	Chhattisgarh	4122
6.	Gujarat	15528
7.	Haryana	26007
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9618
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1903
10.	Jharkhand	2205
11.	Karnataka	18135
12.	Kerala	33907
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14218
14.	Maharashtra	16973
15.	Manipur	2269
16.	Meghalaya	72
17.	Mizoram	1876
18.	Nagaland	1030
19.	Orissa	5871
20.	Punjab	41576

1	2	3
21.	Rajasthan	18372
22.	Sikkim	2053
23.	Tamil Nadu	23963
24.	Tripura	2977
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7425
26.	Uttaranchal	1108
27.	West Bengal	5237
28.	Group of UTs	10931
All India		12585

Note: Separate figures for the States of Delhi and Goa could not be brought out because of the small sample size.

Global Information Technology Report

3875. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest Global Information Technology Report, released in Geneva, India has outstripped China and Russia in IT race;

(b) if so, India's place in the IT sector vis-a-vis other big countries as per this report; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for improving India's place vis-a-vis other big world economics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. India has outstripped China & Russia in IT Race. The Global Information Technology Report 2005-2006's "Networked Readiness Index" gives the degree of preparedness of a nation or community to participate in and benefit from ICT developments.

India - Network Readiness Index - 0.23 (40th rank)

China - Network Readiness Index - 0.01 (50th rank)

Russia - Network Readiness Index -0.39 (72nd rank)

(b) India is ranked at 40th position out of 115 Member countries.

(c) A National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been drawn up by GOI to expedite implementation of e-Governance in the country. The NeGP includes establishment of the following core infrastructure aimed at improving the Network Readiness Index.:

1. A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 Mbps up to the block level, has been approved by the Government in March, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 3,334 Crores with Central Assistance component of Rs. 2005 crores covering capital and operating expenditure over a period of 5 years.
2. Government has formulated a proposal for establishing 100,000+ Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Service Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country. These CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government, including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

Deal with Clinton Foundation

3876. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Pharmaceutical Companies have worked out a deal with Clinton Foundation to provide cheaper second line antiretroviral and HIV diagnosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the possible impact of such a deal on the cost of diagnosis/testing alongwith the number of patients likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Clinton Foundation has an agreement with Cipla, Ranbaxy and Strides to supply abacavir, a second line drug at costs lesser by 37% from those available in the market.

Regarding diagnostics, the Clinton Foundation has entered into an agreement with an Indian manufacturer Qualpro for supply of rapid diagnostic tests for detection of HIV infection. Under this agreement, for organizations having an MOU with Clinton Foundation, Qualpro will

provide HIV rapid diagnostic test kits @ Rs. 22.50 per test which is 40% – 65% lower than the prices of rapid tests from branded companies. However in India, we are able to purchase rapid test kits at Rs. 10 per test. We are not part of this agreement.

Patenting of Indian Herbs/Medicinal Plants

3877. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some developed countries and multinational companies have got patent of various Indian herbs and medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the names of such herbs and medicinal plants; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to file the Indian claim on those herbs and medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the provisions contained in the Indian Patent Act 1970 the herbs and plants are not patentable subject matter vide section 3 (j) of the said Act. Further no patents have been granted to any developed countries and or multi-National Company by the Indian Patent Office on any Indian herbs or Medicinal Plants. However, a number of applications related to formulations based on medicinal usage of Indian Plants and Plant extract were reported to have been filed and granted in different International patent offices by mis-appropriating the Indian Traditional Medicine Knowledge on Indian Plants from the codified texts.

(c) Since it may not be practical to fight all the wrong patents granted by International Patent Offices as it may involve exorbitant cost and may take a long period of time with no certainty that the granted wrong patent will be revoked, the Government of India has created a data-base on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for defensive protection of the bad patents granted at International Patent offices. TKDL has been created for Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha System of medicines in patent application format in five International languages which are English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese. So far, the data-base has been created for over 1,25,000 traditional drug formulations for providing access to international patent offices for purpose of search

and examination, and will prevent the grant of wrong patents.

Relaxation to Business Processing Organisations

3878. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to refund the central sale tax paid by the Business Processing Organisations for purchase of computers and its related equipments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for extending such relaxation to BPOs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) In terms of para 6.11 (c) of Foreign Trade Policy, goods supplied to an Export Oriented Unit (EOU) from Domestic Tariff area (DTA) are eligible for refund of Central Sales Tax (CST). However, such refund is available against a 'C' form issued by the Sales Tax Authorities. Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Sector EOUs were not getting refund of CST as they were not issued 'C' form. Therefore, the relevant provision in Appendix 14-1-1 of Handbook of Procedure – Volume 1 (Updated as on 7th April, 2006) has been amended suitably.

Setting up of Blood Banks

3879. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Blood Banks functioning in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;

(b) whether these Blood Banks are able to meet the requirement of the area;

(c) if not, the manner in which the demand is met;

(d) whether there is a proposal to set up a new full fledged Blood Bank or to upgrade the existing Blood Banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, there is one blood bank functioning at Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti. Normally, 60 blood transfusions are carried out in a year, which is adequate for meeting the requirements of Lakshadweep. However, in order to ensure timely access of blood to people living at the periphery, three Community Health Centres are linked to the existing blood bank as "Blood Storage Centres", under this year's Action Plan.

New National Road Transport Policy

3880. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the New National Road Transport Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Condition of National Highways

3881. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the condition of National Highways (NHs) in the country particularly in Jharkhand and West Bengal is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair those NHs and construction of bridges over them; and

(c) the time frame fixed for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The National Highways in the country including Jharkhand and West Bengal are generally maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The sections of National Highways which are single lane and those passing through flood prone areas get damaged during monsoon season. The condition of such sections of National Highways is restored to traffic worthy conditions under flood damage/maintenance repairs as per the availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The improvement and maintenance of National Highways including bridges is a continuous process. The same is undertaken in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

Guidelines for Dealing with Hostile Witnesses

3882. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption cases against bureaucrats lost in courts due to Government servants turning hostile as witnesses after the preliminary enquiries;

(b) whether the Government proposes new guidelines to deal with Government servants who turn hostile while deposing as witnesses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As reported by the CBI, during the last three years *i.e.* 2003, 2004 and 2005 one case against a senior Government officer has ended in acquittal due to Government servant turning hostile as witness.

(b) and (c) If a Government servant who had made a statement in course of preliminary enquiry, changes his stand during evidence in the enquiry, and if such action on his part is without justification or with the objective of favouring one or the other party, his conduct would constitute violation of Rule 3 of the Conduct Rules, rendering him liable for disciplinary action.

Sale of 10% Stake in NLCL

3883. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell 10% stake in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLCL);

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

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken on disinvestment of Government equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

[Translation]

Preparation of Medicines from Herbs

3884. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the formulations of medicines prepared from various herbs and their essence during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the medicines prepared from herbs in the country during the last one year;

(c) whether there is alleged decline in the standard of teaching methods of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems of medicine; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to promote these systems of medicine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government have prepared Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha formularies containing formulations with herbal ingredients. The Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drug manufacturers are manufacturing medicines as per Ayurvedic/Unani/Siddha Formulary of India in respect of the classical formulations.

(c) and (d) Government have constituted Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) as autonomous and statutory bodies for regulation of standards of Ayurvedic/Siddha/Unani/Homoeopathy education. There have been complaints regarding the functioning of these Councils

which have been looked into from time to time and guidelines have been issued to these statutory bodies to ensure proper regulation of education of these systems in a transparent manner.

In 2003, the relevant Acts were amended to provide for prior permission of the Central Government before starting a new college/increase in seats/starting of a new post-graduation course with a view to ensure maintenance of prescribed standards of education.

[English]

Condition of Mahanadi River Bridge

3885. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi River Bridge on National Highway No. – 5A is likely to collapse due to pressure of vehicles; and .

(b) if so, 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) and (b) No Sir. The existing bridge is in traffic worthy condition. However, as part of Paradip Port Connectivity Project for 4-laning of National Highway No – 5A from Chandikhol to Paradip (km 0 to km 77), minor repair and rehabilitation of existing bridge is being taken up in addition to construction of new 2-lane bridge.

Teledensity in West Bengal

3886. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) the details of telephone exchanges in West Bengal, indicating existing capacity of each exchange as on December 31, 2005 which are earmarked to be upgraded alongwith their timeframe;

(b) whether the BSNL mobile phone connections are available on demand in West Bengal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

Statement

(d) the details of post-paid and pre-paid mobile telephone connections of the BSNL in West Bengal;

Status of Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal which were Upgraded Till 31.3.2006

(e) the present status of availability of landline telephone in the State;

Sl. No.	Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	Name of Exchange	Exchange capacity as on 31.12.05
1	2	3	4
1.	Asansol	Chinchuria	496
2.	do	Churulla	496
3.	do	Dhadka	2250
4.	do	Domohani	1000
5.	do	Hill-View	3500
6.	do	Jhanjra	1250
7.	do	Khottadihi	744
8.	do	Ukhra	3250
9.	do	Ushagram	1500
10.	do	Bejepratappur RSU	2000
11.	do	Bankura More RSU	1500
12.	do	Borsul RSU	1500
13.	do	Debpur	976
14.	do	Gangatikuri	496
15.	do	Ketugram	496
16.	do	Keuguri	496
17.	do	Mondalgram	976
18.	do	Nadanghat	496
19.	do	Nigon	496
20.	do	Nutanhat	496
21.	do	Patuli	1000
22.	do	Piplon	976
23.	Bankura	Bankura	13088
24.	do	Bishnupur	5000

(f) whether teledensity in West Bengal is much below the national average; and

(g) if so, the steps contemplated for its augmentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details including capacity of telephone exchanges in West Bengal as on 31.12.2005, which were earmarked to be upgraded is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

(d) Number of Mobile telephone connections of BSNL in West Bengal as on 30.04.2006 is as under:

(i) Post-Paid = 1,43,480

(ii) Pre-paid = 9,79,888

(e) Landline telephones are available on demand in most of the exchanges of West Bengal. However, there is a scattered waitlist of about 1,28,213 as on 31.3.2006.

(f) Sir, the teledensity of West Bengal is 10.26 against the national average of 12.74.

(g) To meet the scattered demand, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) with Fixed Wireless Terminal (FWT) is being used along with wide coverage of Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) upto sub-division level. The number of lines planned for West Bengal in these two categories upto December 2007 is as follows:

	2006-07	2007-08 (upto Dec. 2007)
GSM Mobile	20,97,700	18,09,100
Landline and WLL	4,16,200	4,40,400

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
25.	do	BSP Industry	1000	54.	do	Gangasagar	500
26.	do	Dhagoria	496	55.	do	Karanjali	496
27.	do	Garhraipur	1000	56.	do	Kultali	496
28.	do	Onda	1000	57.	do	Nischintapur	1000
29.	do	Saldiha	1000	58.	do	Rudranagar	1000
30.	Berhampur	Barjumla	750	59.	do	Thakuraniberia	496
31.	do	Berhampore	16750	60.	do	Bakulia	496
32.	do	Bharatpur	1500	61.	do	Chiladangi	496
33.	do	Cossimbazar	1000	62.	do	Harinkhola	496
34.	do	Khagra	2000	63.	do	Haripur	496
35.	do	Lalgola	2000	64.	do	Khanakul	1500
36.	do	Murshidabad	2000	65.	do	Khusiganj	248
37.	do	Nabagram	750	66.	do	Rameswarpur	1500
38.	do	Panchgram	1000	67.	do	Seapur	496
39.	do	Salar	2000	68.	do	Ajodhya	496
40.	do	Shaktipur	1500	69.	do	Chitrasenpur	1000
41.	do	Simanapara	1000	70.	do	Gangadharpur	1000
42.	Calcutta	Basirhat	7000	71.	do	Kalyanpur	1000
43.	do	Chaital	496	72.	do	Khalna	1000
44.	do	Dhanpota Bazar	496	73.	do	Maju	496
45.	do	Hingalganj	496	74.	do	Sasati	496
46.	do	Kalinagar-I	496	75.	do	Udang	496
47.	do	Kalinagar-II	496	76.	Cooch Bihar	Choudhurihat	496
48.	do	Katiahat	1000	77.	do	Guriahati	1500
49.	do	Kharibari	1400	78.	do	Kalighat	1500
50.	do	Nataberia	496	79.	do	Nazirat	496
51.	do	Sandeshkhali	496	80.	do	Ranirhat	496
52.	do	Basanti	1000	81.	do	Statihat	496
53.	do	Co Thek	496	82.	Gangtok	Sang	496

1	2	3	4
83.	do	Melli	496
84.	do	Teml Bzr	496
85.	Jalpaiguri	Alipurduar Jn.	1500
86.	do	Falakata	3000
87.	do	Haldibari	1128
88.	do	Jalpaiguri	11000
89.	do	Joygaon	2750
90.	do	Locksan	496
91.	do	Pandapara	3500
92.	do	Raninagar	1000
93.	do	Shantipara	4000
94.	Krishnagar	Bhatjangla	2000
95.	do	Ghumi	2000
96.	do	Krishnagar	4000
97.	do	Mayapur	1000
98.	do	Shaktinagar	2000
99.	Malda	Bangi Tola	1000
100.	do	Golap Ganj	1000
101.	do	Mahadi Pur	1000
102.	do	Malda-Main (OCB-R)	4000
103.	Raiganj	Raiganj	8000
104.	do	Linebazar	4500
105.	do	Shyampur	1500
106.	Siliguri	Bijanbari	1000
107.	do	Darjeeling	7400
108.	do	Ghoom	1250
109.	do	Mirik	1000
110.	do	Sukhiapokhril	1000

*[Translation]***Cargo Capacity of Major Ports**

3887. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the capacity of cargo arrangements of major ports of the country at present and the details thereof, port-wise;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to increase the cargo capacity of major ports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target set by various ports in respect of cargo arrangements during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The aggregate Cargo handling capacity in the 12 major ports as on 31.3.2005, when the capacities were last reassessed is 397.50 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Port-wise break-up is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Major Port	Capacity (In MTPA)
1	2	3
1.	Kolkata (Kilkata Dock Systems)	9.80
2.	Kolkata (Haldia Dock Complex)	34.10
3.	Mumbai	42.90
4.	JL Nehru	33.10
5.	Chennai	41.85
6.	Cochin	15.50
7.	Vizag	49.65
8.	Kandla	45.00
9.	Mormugao	28.50
10.	Paradip	39.00

1	2	3
11.	New Mangalore	30.30
12.	Tuticorin	15.80
13.	Ennore	12.00
Total		397.50

(b) and (c) Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) formulated by the Department of Shipping, a total of 276 projects, to be taken up for implementation during the period upto 2011-12 have been identified. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in major ports including development of new berths, expansion/upgradation of existing berths, deepening of channels, equipment modernization and upgradation, rail/road connectivity and other associated activities. Total capacity addition envisaged under the Programme is 402.91 MTPA.

(d) A total cargo traffic target of 465.70 million tonnes has been fixed for major ports for the year 2006-07. Port-wise break-up is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Major Port	Traffic target for 2006-07 (In million tonnes)
1.	Kolkata (Kolkata Dock Systems)	10.00
2.	Kolkata (Haldia Dock Complex)	41.80
3.	Mumbai	49.00
4.	JL Nehru	43.22
5.	Chennai	52.20
6.	Cochin	15.69
7.	Vizag	61.59
8.	Kandla	50.79
9.	Mormugao	35.30
10.	Paradip	40.80
11.	New Mangalore	37.25
12.	Tuticorin	18.20
13.	Ennore	9.86
Total		465.70

[English]

Indians in Foreign Jails

3888. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many poor Indians who are unable to pay "blood money" are languishing in Gulf jails in connection with road accidents;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has collected information on the matter through Indian Embassies in those countries; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get these Indians released at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Indian Missions abroad become aware, through jail visits and through social workers, about Indian nationals languishing in jails for not being able to pay blood money. Country-wise details are not available with the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. Government is in touch with Indian Embassies who make an effort to collect such information. However, there is lack of cooperation from the foreign governments.

(f) As and when such instances come to the notice of the Indian Mission, they approach/guide the family of the accused in getting pardon from the family of the deceased. No fund for payment of blood money is available with the Indian Missions. Help is taken from local Indian Associations abroad.

Expansion of Health Services of AIIMS

3889. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals in regard to the expansion of health services in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi are under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The expansion of All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an ongoing exercise. The AIIMS is in the process of formulating a comprehensive proposal for expansion/upgradation of facilities and super speciality services, along with Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report, etc. The clearances of the proposal will, however, depend on the appraisal by various authorities and plan allocation during the XI Plan period.

NHAI Projects

3890. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India may have to bear a loss of an extra Rs. 70 crore due to delay in the completion of the Delhi Expressway as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated May 5, 2006;

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

(c) the details of projects at present taken by the NHAI in the country;

(d) the present status of each project with their time schedule fixed for completion; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete all projects in time?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The status of projects as on 30.4.2006 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to expedite the projects are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Status of Projects as on 30.4.2006

(length in km)

Project	Total Length	Length Completed	Length under Implementation	Balance for award	Likly date of substantial completion
NHDP PH I (mainly consists of GQ)	7498	6531	961	30	96% of GQ would be completed by June 2006.
NHDP PH II (mainly consists NS & EW corridor)	6736	—	5199	1501	Dec. 2008
NHDP Ph IIIA	4015	30	1090	2889	Dec. 2009.

Statement-II*Steps taken to Expedite the Projects*

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
- (b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.
- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified. Earlier all the notifications under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Now, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.
- (e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Presentation to Sri Lanka on Centre-state Relationship

3891. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given a presentation to Sri Lanka on India's Centre-State relationship and the devolution of powers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In response to a specific request made by the Sri Lankan Government, a presentation on the Indian Constitution with reference to the provisions on distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States was made during the Sri Lankan President's visit to India from December 28-31, 2005.

[Translation]

Welfare of Sports Persons

3892. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of sportspersons representing the country in the National Games;

(b) whether the Government provides assistance for the employment/self employment of these players;

(c) if so, the number of players so benefited during the last five years alongwith the details thereof;

(d) whether these benefits are being provided only to the outstanding players; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing the following schemes, for the welfare of sportspersons;

- (i) National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons—The National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons and their families was set up primarily to assist outstanding sports persons of yesteryears, who are living in indigent circumstances. Financial support is given in the form of monthly pensions upto Rs. 2500.

Lump-sum financial assistance up to Rs. 40,000 is also given for medical treatment in case of injury.

Sportspersons who suffer from fatal injury in the course of participation in sports events during training are also helped subject to maximum assistance of Rs. 1 lakh.

- (ii) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons—Under this scheme launched in 1994, life pension is given to Sportspersons from the age of 30 years who are Indian citizens and have won medals in the Olympic Games, the World Cup/World Championships, the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Para-Olympic Games.

(b) to (e) Under the existing orders of the Government of India, issued by Department of Personnel and Training. Ministries/Departments of the Government of India can recruit meritorious Sportspersons in any year in relaxation of the recruitment procedure to the extent that these, including all other reservations under existing orders, do not exceed 50% of the total number of vacancies proposed to be filled by direct recruitment in any Group C or D post. For the purpose of making appointment of meritorious Sportspersons, the appointing authorities, may at their discretion, notify to the Staff Selection Commission in all cases where the recruitment to the posts have been entrusted to that Commission, vacancies reduced by upto 5% thereof and may fill such vacancies so held back by appointing meritorious Sportspersons subject to the overall limitation of 50% mentioned above.

Sports being a State subject, it is for the individual State Governments to take policy decisions with regard to their jurisdiction. As such, this Ministry does not

maintain a record of Sportspersons employed with different employers.

[English]

WLL Telephone Service

3893. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the Cellular and WLL service providers in the country;

(b) whether the WLL telephone service is not working properly in several parts of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure cheap and quality service to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Cellular and WLL services are provided by Access Service Providers in the country. The list of Access Service Providers is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The WLL services are working satisfactorily in most part of the country. However, poor WLL telephone services in certain areas are due to unreliable electric power supply in those areas.

(d) The Government has adopted the approach of unrestricted competition and technology neutrality to ensure cheap and quality service to subscribers.

Statement

List of Access Service Providers

1. M/S Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
2. M/S Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
3. M/S Reliance Infocomm Limited
4. M/S Tata Teleservices Limited
5. M/S Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited

6. M/S Bharti Tele-venture Limited
7. M/S Hutchinson Essar Mobile Services Limited
8. M/S Idea Cellular Limited
9. M/S. BPL Mobile Communication Limited
10. M/S Hutchison Max Telecom Limited
11. M/S Aircel Cellular Limited
12. M/S Hutchinson Essar South Limited
13. M/S Releiable internet Services Limited
14. M/S Fascel Limited
15. M/S Spice Communications Limited
16. M/S BPL Mobile Cellular Limited
17. M/S Aircel Limited
18. M/S Idea Mobile Communication Limited
19. M/S Aircel Digilink India Limited
20. M/S BTA Cellcom Limited
21. M/S HFCL Infortel Limited
22. M/S Shyam Telelink Limited
23. M/S Bharti Hexacom Limited
24. M/S Escorts Telecommunications Limited
25. M/S Dishnet DSL Limited
26. M/S Reliance Telecom Limited

Control of National Highways Act

3894. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether the rules have been made under this Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Act has been implemented in totality;
- (d) if not, the aspects which have not been implemented and the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) with regard to para 6 of the Act, whether the Tribunal has been established;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) with regard to para 20 of the Act, whether the Highway Administration has been made functional;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Seven Rules have been notified under the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 as under:

(i) National Highways Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2003.

(ii) National Highways Tribunal (Procedure for Appointment as Presiding Officer of the Tribunal) Rules, 2003.

(iii) National Highways Tribunal (Procedure for investigation of misbehavior or incapacity of Presiding Officer) Rules, 2003.

(iv) National Highways Tribunal (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2004.

(v) National Highways Tribunal (Salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Presiding Officer) Rules, 2005.

(vi) National Highways Tribunal (Salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees) Rules, 2005.

(vii) Highways Administration Rules, 2004.

(c) The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 has come into force with effect from 27th January, 2005.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Under Section 6 of the Act, Presiding Officer of National Highway Tribunal (NHT), Lucknow with additional charge of NHT, Jabalpur was appointed vide Notification dated 29th June, 2005. The Presiding Officer

of NHT, Chandigarh was appointed vide notification dated 8th December, 2005 with effect from the date of the assumption of the charge by him.

(h) to (j) 192 Highway Administrations with their jurisdiction have been established under Section 3 of the Act in respect of National Highways vide Notification No. S.O.76 (E) dated 20th January, 2005. The Regional Officer, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Chennai, has authorized as per Section 20 of the Act, Project Directors of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to exercise the powers and discharge of the functions conferred in the Highway Administrations in respect of some of the Sections of the National Highways for which Regional Officer, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Chennai was established as a Highway Administration.

Reconstruction of Ports and Harbour Infrastructure

3895. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) the details of jetties, dry docks vessels, lighthouses etc. suffered by Tsunami;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for reconstruction of ports and harbour infrastructure;

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

(d) the details of progress made so far to make such infrastructure operational; and

(e) the details of funds allocated and utilized so far for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) During Tsunami in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, all the 56 jetties were damaged and 47 have already been restored. Out of the remaining 9, 4 are not required to be restored as suggested by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and 5 are in the process of implementation. Both the Dry Docks were also damaged and the same have been repaired already. As regards the 30 Lighthouses in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 15 were damaged and all have been restored. Out of 3 Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) installation, the one at Indira Point and

the other at Keating Point were damaged. The Indira Point DGPS has been decided to be shifted to Campbell Bay and the work is expected to be completed by December, 2006. At Keating Point, the work is expected to be completed by September, 2006. 9 vessels were damaged/sunken during Tsunami. The ports of Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Tuticorin as well as other offices under this Department suffered damages to port buildings, structures, machinery etc.

An Action Plan has been prepared for reconstruction of ports and harbour infrastructure. An amount of Rs. 897.31 crores has been approved for Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the period up to 2008-09. Rs. 2.85 crores have been spent for immediate post tsunami restoration works in 2004-05, in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In 2005-06 Rs. 18.58 crores has been spent on tsunami rehabilitation works. Rs. 89.76 crores have been allocated for tsunami works in Annual Plan 2006-07, of which Rs. 64.05 crores is meant for Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW), Rs. 18.65 crores is for Chennai Port Trust, Rs. 0.50 crores is for Tuticorin Port Trust, Rs. 4.95 crores is for Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Rs. 0.11 crores for National Institute of Port Management (NIPM) and Rs.1.50 crores for Minor Ports Survey Organisation (MPSO).

Recommendations of Shankar Committee

3896. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of major products of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation fixed and achieved during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Shankar has submitted any report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the extent to which the technology has been upgraded and the production improved as a result of the implementation of recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The targets of major products of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and actual achieved during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given below:

Product	2005-06		2004-05	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Lignite (million tonnes)	20.400	20.435	21.000	21.567
Power Generation Gross (Million Units)	15705.000	16246.60	15286.000	16746.380

(b) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. T.L. Shankar has submitted Part-I of the report covering

- (i) Assessment of demand-supply gap and meeting it in the short term (upto 2006-07) and also the medium term (upto 2011-12).
- (ii) Captive mining: examination of current policy and recommendations. Examining the merits of opening up trading in coal including the examination of the current e-auction procedures.

The Part-II of the report dealing with rest of the issues is yet to be submitted to the Government.

(c) and (d) The recommendations made by the Committee are, *inter alia*, as follows:

- (i) As coal shall remain India's primary source of commercial energy supply, a time-bound plan to cover the entire country by regional mapping in 15 years should be prepared by Geological Survey of India, Coal Mine Planning and Design Institute and Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
- (ii) CIL may be granted the status of Navratna company and the subsidiaries of CIL may be granted the status of Mini Ratna companies in which case only those proposals of such a subsidiary would need government approval wherein the capital expenditure exceeds Rs. 500 crore.
- (iii) The environmental issue in respect of projects should be taken up on priority consideration by the Government.
- (iv) Planned imports of coal needs to be encouraged.
- (v) Increasing proportion of all domestic coal that is not earmarked for Power Sector be brought into the E-auction market over the next 2 to 3 years.

(vi) The current system of linkages feeding the power sector may be replaced with formal long term Fuel Supply and Transport Agreements that include the Railways.

(vii) The procedures and processes need to be streamlined to expedite the allotment of the captive coal blocks in a transparent and effective manner.

(viii) All possible legal measures should be evolved to cancel the licenses issues earlier if the allottee has not taken adequate steps to bring the allotted mines to production or in setting up the end use units.

(ix) Coal price would need to be regulated in light of the market realities. The regulation of coal price has to be differentiate the pricing of coal for power generation since it consumes 80% of the domestic production and the quality of coal it consumes is not easily saleable to the steel and cement sectors.

(x) The Railway tariff for coal should be subject to a detailed review by an independent agency, preferably headed by a High/Supreme Court Judge.

(xi) The Railways should in consultation with Planning Commission and the Ministries of Coal and Power determine the main corridors through which coal would move in very large quantities to power plants and examine the cost and feasibility of setting up dedicated trunk-routes for coal transport.

The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Government.

Regulation of Tariff

3897. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether there is an aggressive war over tariff among the landline and mobile companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to regulate the landline and mobile phone tariff to ensure healthy competition among the private companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is increased competition among the landline and mobile companies, over tariff. Due to this competition and various policy and regulatory decisions taken by Government and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the rates for telecom services have been falling. The decline in tariff for Mobile, National Long Distance and International Long Distance segments has been substantial in recent years.

(c) and (d) Sir, the Government, vide TRAI Act of 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act of 2000, has already mandated the power of regulating tariff for telecom services to TRAI. The Government no longer fixes tariff for telecom services in the country.

As per the present tariff framework, the operators have flexibility to offer different tariffs depending upon the market conditions and other commercial considerations. However, these tariffs are to be consistent with the general regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation and IUC (Interconnection Usage Charges) compliance. The Authority continues to regulate tariffs in respect of those segments where the competition is inadequate or for social reasons. Thus, the tariff (Rental, local calls and free call allowance) for basic service in rural area, roaming in Cellular Mobile Service and tariffs for leased circuits (both domestic and IPLC) are presently regulated.

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

[Translation]

Robbery in Head Post Office

3898. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a robbery was committed in the Head Post Office of Barabanki District;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the said post office; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An incident of theft occurred in the night of 12/13.01.2000 at Barabanki Head Post Office.

(b) There was loss of postage stamps valued at Rs. eleven lakhs seventy six thousands six hundred forty one and paise five only (Rs. 11,76,641.05).

(c) The case was reported to police on 13.01.2000. The police after investigation filed final report in the Hon'ble court, which has been accepted by the court. Besides, suitable departmental action was taken against the staff for their lapses.

Setting up of Mobile Phone Towers

3899. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the total number of mobile phone towers functioning in each State at present;

(b) whether due to shortage of mobile towers or low capacity towers, the mobile phone service is not functioning properly in the rural areas of several States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) service area-wise, as reported by mobile service providers, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The extensive coverage up to Block Headquarters including coverage of important National Highways, Railway Routes and State Highways is providing coverage in vast areas of rural population. The continuous and progressive rollout of the mobile network would provide further improved and enhanced coverage in rural areas.

With the expansion of subscriber base, mobile networks are to be upgraded by the service providers to meet Quality of Service (QoS) standards. This is a continuous process in terms of re-engineering of network by addition of more Base Stations, adopting techniques such as installation of boosters and adoption of micro cell architecture etc.

The Government has also taken steps to simplify procedures for clearance of sites for installation of towers.

Statement

Number of BTSs reported by mobile service providers as on 31st March, 2006

Sl. No.	Service Area	Number of BTSs
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	4561
2.	Mumbai	3845
3.	Chennai	2690
4.	Kolkata	2323
5.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	5148
6.	Gujarat	5114
7.	Andhra Pradesh	5234
8.	Karnataka	5705
9.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	5149
10.	Kerala	3958
11.	Punjab	4568
12.	Haryana	1961
13.	U.P.(West) (including Uttaranchal)	3230

1	2	3
14.	U.P. (East)	3935
15.	Rajasthan	3205
16.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	2554
17.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar)	2754
18.	Himachal Pradesh	920
19.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	1825
20.	Orissa	1794
21.	Assam	1090
22.	North East	529
23.	Jammu and Kashmir	781
Total		72873

Note: 1. M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited started services only in the beginning of this year in J&K and their data is not available.

2. Above figures do not contain BTSs of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) network.

Fix Tenure of District Collector and Superintendent of Police

3900. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohaniaiganj): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Civil Services Association has requested the Union Government to fix the tenure of District Collector and Superintendent of Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion on the issue was held in the Conference of these officers and on the occasion of the last civil services day; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the conference of the District Magistrates held in June, 2005 and also the Civil Service Day held on 21.04.2006, there was a suggestion for prescribing security of tenure to officers of All India Services.

(d) The Central Government has initiated a proposal for the amendment of relevant All India Services rules and regulations in order to provide for a fixed tenure of posting to All India Services officers.

[English]

Modernisation of Telecom Sector

3901. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernization of telecommunications sector, strengthening of research facilities have been taken up;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Modernization of telecommunications sector is an ongoing process. For strengthening of the research facilities, a road map for research activities at Centre for Development of Telematics, C-DOT has been prepared to make it more market oriented. Moreover, the research projects have been re-prioritized and it has also entered into strategic alliances with leading telecom global organizations to cater to both the present and the future needs of the telecom sector in a cost effective manner.

Accordingly C-DOT is working on the following major areas of technologies:

- o Innovative services for business and industry.
- o Advanced Intelligent Networks Services

- o High Bit Rate Network Backbone on Fiber and Satellite.

- o Cell and Pocket Technologies for Voice and Data Convergence.

- o Wireless and Mobile Communication

In addition C-DOT has set up a joint venture with a leading French company to work on future wireless systems.

In the budget estimate for the year 2006-07, Rs. 143.7 crore has been provided for the R&D work of C-DOT.

(c) Over Rs. 66 crore has been set aside by the Government as grant in aid for C-DOT and the balance money will be generated by it internally.

The private sector is also actively involved in the various R&D projects for the telecom sector. However, the cost particulars are not maintained centrally.

[Translation]

Funds and Grants to States

3902. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated as funds and grants to various States by the Union Government during the last five year plan;

(b) whether any requests have been made by the States to increase the amount of grants during the current Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) A Statement/showing the Approved Central Assistance for the States during the Ninth Plan period is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Allocation of Central Assistance for the Annual Plans of States consists of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance

(ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for Special & Other Programmes. While allocation under NCA is based on the Gadgil formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991, allocations under ACA for EAPs and Special & Other Programmes are based on their own specific criteria and guidelines. Allocation of ACA for EAPs is based on utilization of funds for projects. Allocation for Special and Other Programmes depends on the needs of States and sectoral priorities under each programme. The overall

quantum of Central Assistance to State Plans is decided based on the quantum of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the Plan (both Central and States) that is available from the Government of India. This quantum, once decided, is allocated to various States on the basis mentioned above. No specific requests to increase the overall GBS for the State Plan during the current plan period have been received by the Planning Commission.

Statement

Approved Central Assistance for the Ninth Plan Period (1997-98 to 2001-02)

(Rs. in crore)

ITEMS	Anunehal Pradesh	Assam	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	Total (10 SCSs)
TOTAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (1+2+3)	2814.09	7786.86	4432.39	11458.61	2500.91	1941.37	1866.83	1989.19	1354.26	2958.47	39102.98
1. NORMAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE	2175.04	5266.65	2604.05	5159.33	1574.40	1308.02	1455.82	1518.25	988.23	1987.04	24036.83
2. ACA FOR EAPs	30.00	688.39	349.88	187.19	235.45	125.00	60.00	51.74	80.00	75.00	1882.65
3. ACA FOR SPECIAL & OTHER PROGRAMMES (1 to 15)	609.05	1831.82	1478.46	6112.09	691.06	508.35	351.01	419.20	296.03	896.43	13183.50
1. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana(PMGY)	136.34	380.69	149.89	363.75	102.95	86.05	90.82	86.39	66.09	121.66	1584.43
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMOSY)	70.00	150.00	120.00	160.00	60.00	70.00	42.00	40.00	40.00	60.00	812.00
3. Accelerated Programme Benefit Programme	82.50	145.00	143.00	250.00	140.80	48.00	4.00	10.00	22.00	180.00	1023.30
4. Basic Minimum Services	224.22	524.79	241.37	501.47	177.24	139.65	126.12	154.23	122.66	161.66	2373.41
5. Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	55.00
6. Slum Development Programme	5.30	15.04	5.30	32.52	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30	89.98
7. Shifting Cultivation	6.65	2.75	0.00	0.00	21.00	7.30	15.70	16.20	0.00	5.40	75.00
8. Border Area Development Programme	43.00	30.17	12.16	145.28	20.16	21.62	37.55	20.00	17.50	59.71	407.15
9. Hill Area Development Programme	4.00	249.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.39
10. Western Ghat Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11. Tribal Sub-Plan	0.00	63.21	15.46	22.74	17.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.68	21.90	142.64
12. ACA for Roads and Bridges	3.38	18.00	16.48	210.83	6.06	1.96	1.52	2.08	0.80	2.24	263.35
13. Special Plan Assistance	0.00	0.00	469.00	1350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1819.00
14. Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	80.00	2650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2730.00
15. One-Time ACA	33.66	252.78	191.00	425.50	139.90	130.47	28.00	65.00	10.00	278.56	1554.87

Approved Central Assistance for the Ninth Plan Period (1997-98 to 2001-02)

(Rs. in crore)

ITEMS	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Goa	Gujarat	Haryana	Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa
TOTAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (1+2+3)	17395.30	10583.05	507.56	11534.82	3935.99	8736.00	4196.80	9719.24	9650.31	9351.06
1. NORMAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE	4311.22	6409.14	314.49	2029.69	1042.44	2294.92	2399.87	4161.68	3569.25	2635.50
2. ACA FOR EAPs	10338.32	821.93	7.11	6652.86	2237.71	4407.50	907.74	2654.02	3657.91	4566.74
3. ACA FOR SPECIAL & OTHER PROGRAMMES (1 to 15)	2745.76	3361.98	185.96	2852.27	655.84	2033.58	899.19	2903.54	2423.15	2148.82
1. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGSY)	301.17	533.04	1.65	137.35	35.57	159.25	146.45	206.02	210.16	208.93
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	380.00	410.00	10.00	68.41	70.00	190.00	23.00	513.00	255.79	350.00
3. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	1095.00	710.00	134.00	1530.00	240.00	1030.00	130.00	905.00	780.00	665.00
4. Basic Minimum Services	546.54	1166.43	8.81	262.54	96.13	318.53	292.11	754.44	443.64	502.11
5. Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme	0.00	0.00	1.10	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.54	58.31	0.00
6. Slum Development Programme	169.20	119.61	4.20	96.99	26.78	101.19	49.39	79.72	196.39	32.31
7. Shifting Cultivation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8. Border Area Development Programme	0.00	21.28	0.00	47.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9. Hill Area Development Programme	0.00	n.oo	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10. Western Ghat Development Programme	0.00	0.00	14.88	0.00	0.00	71.94	60.66	0.00	97.28	0.00
11. Tribal Sub-Plan	64.05	125.12	0.00	91.97	0.00	18.64	6.08	291.35	87.44	151.38
12. ACA for Roads and Bridges	158.80	71.50	11.32	147.15	73.58	110.00	63.50	78.47	244.14	36.74
13. Special Plan Assistance	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
14. Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
15. One-Time ACA	31.00	105.00	0.00	355.40	113.78	34.00	128.00	29.00	50.00	177.35

Approved Central Assistance for the Ninth Plan Period (1997-98 to 2001-02)

(Rs. in crore)

ITEMS	Punjab	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Total (10 SCs)	Total (15 NSCs)	Total (25)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TOTAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (1+2+3)	4170.74	7266.21	8520.53	26238.24	14054.75	39102.98	145869.60	184972.58
1. NORMAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE	1147.85	2780.33	3384.88	9563.76	4697.70	24036.83	50742.72	74779.55

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2. ACA for EAPs		1265.16	2140.53	3708.19	10290.48	7107.08	1882.65	60763.28	62645.93
3. ACA FOR SPECIAL & OTHER PROGRAMMES (1 to 15)		1757.73	2344.35	1417.46	6384.00	2249.97	13183.50	34363.60	47547.10
1. Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY)		85.65	204.37	222.15	725.62	355.78	1584.43	3533.19	5117.62
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)		28.00	260.00	93.38	673.76	221.10	812.00	3546.44	4358.44
3. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme		850.00	633.00	190.00	1200.00	230.00	1023.30	10322.00	11345.30
4. Basic Minimum Services		112.90	426.04	398.81	1533.64	652.20	2373.41	7514.87	9688.28
5. Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	190.95	245.95
6. Slum Development Programme		47.90	71.27	130.40	210.76	178.96	89.96	1515.07	1605.03
7. Shifting Cultivation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00
8. Border Area Development Programme		38.30	322.57	0.00	32.32	178.33	407.15	640.26	1047.41
9. Hill Area Development Programme		0.00	0.00	107.44	944.13	111.15	253.39	1162.72	1416.11
10. Western Ghats Development Programme		0.00	0.00	50.75	0.00	0.00	0.60	295.51	295.51
11. Tribal Hub-Plan		0.00	85.17	7.79	3.20	52.01	142.64	984.20	1126.84
12. ACA for Roads and Bridges		102.44	1.37.83	176.74	198.57	86.84	263.35	1697.62	1960.97
13. Special Plan Assistance		0.00	0.00	0.00	447.00	0.00	1819.00	572.00	2391.00
14. Special Central Assistance		395.00	104.10	0.00	0.00	75.00	2730.00	604.10	3334.10
15. One-Time ACA		97.54	100.00	40.00	415.00	108.60	1554.87	1784.67	3339.54

*[English]***Increase in Plan Outlay of Maharashtra**

3903. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra has requested for an 18% increase in plan outlay from Rs. 11,000 crore to Rs. 13,000 crore for the annual plan 2006-07;

(b) if so, the grounds on which the increase has been sought by the State Government; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The

Government of Maharashtra had proposed an outlay of Rs. 13300 crore as per their Annual Plan 2006-07 document. During the meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Maharashtra held on February 8, 2006 to finalise the Annual Plan 2006-07 of the State, it was agreed, based on an assessment of resources, that the Annual Plan size of the State would be Rs. 14829 crore consisting of State's Own Resources of Rs. 9780 crore and Central Assistance of Rs. 5049 crore.

*[Translation]***Non Interference in Running of Sports Organisations**

3904. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government considers external political interference as one of the reasons for poor performance by India in international sports/games;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to legislate a law to keep various sports organisations in the country free of any external, bureaucratic or political interference;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action plan under consideration of the Government to bring sports organizations under the control of sports persons?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) India's performance in international events is generally showing an improvement in the recent years. It is not possible to conclude that external political interference is one of the reasons for poor performance by India in international sports/games.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Sports figures in the 'State List' of the Constitution and the Central Government do not have mandate to legislate on any sports matter.

(e) The National Sports Federations (NSFs)/ Association are registered autonomous organizations and their office bearers are elected as per their respective Constitutions/Memorandum of Associations. However, as per the provisions contained in the 'Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations', all NSFs are required to include prominent sportspersons of outstanding merit as their members on a tenure basis. The strength of such prominent sportspersons with voting rights should be a certain percentage (about 25%) of the total members representing the Federation.

Contribution of States to GDP

3905. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether five to six States contribute more than 45 per cent of the GDP;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the existing policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken by the government to promote industries in those States whose contribution to the GDP is not in accordance with the size and resources of the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the latest available statistics, six major States, namely Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, together contributed about 50 per cent of the all India Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2003-04 at constant 1993-94 prices.

(b) to (d) The share of each State in GDP is determined inter-alia by the size of the State. No general reaction can be made in this regard. However, one of the objectives of development planning is to achieve even distribution of growth across the States. The growth performance of the States is determined by a number of factors and it is not possible to identify the extent to which, it is policy driven.

(e) and (f) In order to address the issue of balanced industrial development, several Centrally Sponsored Schemes and special area development packages that were initiated in earlier plans were continued in the Tenth Plan. These special packages include transport subsidies for promoting industrialization in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, increased equity contribution by the Government of India, capital investment subsidies, interest subsidies, fiscal incentives like income tax and excise duty exemption etc. During the Tenth Plan new initiatives such as special package for industrial development in Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have been launched.

[English]

Health Care Services

3906. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU:

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

(a) whether the Government has asked the Planning Commission to make an assessment of the human resource scenario in the health sector with a view to addressing inequalities in the provision of health care services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to create quality human resources for the public health system in India in terms of medical, nursing and support staff and opportunity for India to become an important destination for health care services, Planning Commission has set up a Task Force on Planning for Human Resources in the Health Sector under the Chairpersonship of Member (Health). The above Task Force would have representatives of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare from the Centre and of selected States and professional experts to map the gap in this sector, identify new opportunities and come up with a human resource development plan for the Indian health sector.

Development Projects in Gujarat

3907. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned some development projects for Gujarat;

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

(c) the amount of funds released for the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Annual Plan 2006-07 of Gujarat has been approved at Rs. 12503.50 crore. The approved allocations for major sectors are as follows:

	(Rs. crore)
(i) Irrigation and Flood Control	3387.20
(ii) Energy	1020.73
(iii) Transport	1216.52
(iv) Social Services	4530.34

(b) The Plan Schemes are being implemented all over the State. The major schemes/projects under implementation include the Sardar Sarovar Project, Jyoti Gram Yojana, Sujalam-Suphalam Yojana, etc.

(c) The Plan size consists of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. The Central Assistance is being released as per set pattern and as per the progress of implementation.

Indo-US CEO Forum

3908. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up Committees to implement the recommendations of the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Forum established by the US and India;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the composition thereof;

(c) whether the US has formed similar Committees to implement the recommendations of the CEO Forum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. The recommendations contained in the Report of the India-US CEO Forum presented to the Prime Minister and US President by the India—US CEO Forum Members on March 2, 2006, are currently being examined and processed in consultation with all the concerned Ministries of Government of India. Committees will be established as considered necessary.

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

(c) It is understood that the US side are also currently at a similar stage of processing.

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

Medicinal Herbs

3909. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the availability of Medicinal Herbals in the country;

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

(c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to conserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, an autonomous organization under the Ministry, has conducted survey of Medicinal Plants in about 400 forest divisions located in different parts of the country. The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine another autonomous organization under the Ministry has also been conducting ethnobotanical surveys in different forest areas of the country to ascertain the availability of medicinal plants in general and Unani Medicinal plants in particular. So far, the Council has undertaken studies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forest during the period 1993-2004 has supported the creation of 55 Forest gene banks of 250-500 hectare size each in peninsular India. These forest gene banks are called Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCA's) and have the objective of conserving the wild gene pools of medicinal plants of the region. There are 14 such gene banks in Karnataka, 13 in Tamil Nadu, 7 in Kerala, 11 in Maharashtra and 10 in Andhra Pradesh.

The National Medicinal Plants Board under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also supporting programmes for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of medicinal plants.

Construction of Post Office Buildings in Delhi

3910. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Post Offices have acquired a few land sites in the Union Capital for constructing building for new or existing Post Offices;

(b) if so, the number of sites with the Delhi Post Offices as on April 1, 2006, area-wise; and

(c) the likely date for the commencement of the construction, and commencement of work in the new building in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Delhi Postal Circle has 20 vacant land sites—6 in Rohini, 2 in Dwarka and 1 each at Khureji Khas, I. P. Extension, Geeta Colony, Dilshad Garden, Vikaspuri, Mandawali Fazalpur, Kirby Place, Pankha Road (Institutional Area), Naraina Community Centre, Janakpuri, Saraswati Vihar and Prasad Nagar.

(c) 5 building projects, at Saraswati Vihar, Prasad Nagar, I.P. Extension, Dwarka-VI and Vikaspuri, have been included for construction in the Xth Five Year Plan.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of National Highway No. 76 into Four Lane

3911. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been accorded for conversion of N.H. No. 76 into four lane;

(b) if so, the amount allocated therefor;

(c) the time-limit for completion of the same;

(d) whether there is any provision for imposing penalty in case the work is not completed within the time limit; 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 (e) Yes Sir. Section of NH-76 from Pindwara in Rajasthan to Shivpuri in MP has been approved for 4-laning under NHDP Phase-I and II, of which 106 km pertaining to Chittorgarh-Udaipur Section which is common with Golden Quadrilateral Project, has already been 4 laned. The balance of the length is being 4-laned as part of East West Corridor. The details of the contracts are enclosed as statement-I.

Statement*East-west Corridor*

Sl. No.	Contract Stretch State	NH No.	Length (Km.)	Funded by	Cost of the project	Date of completion	Details of Liquidity Damages Clause (penalty)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border EW-II (MP-1) Km.15.00 to Junction of NH-76/ NH-3 of NH-25 & Km.610 to Km. 579.00 of NH-76 (Madhya Pradesh)	25 & 76	54	ADB	360.34	Feb., 2008	Liquidated Damages— 1/2000th of Contract Price per day for delay in completion subject to a maximum of 10% of contract price
2.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-II (RJ-10) Km. 579 to Km. 509 (Rajasthan)	76	70	ADB	311.35	March, 2008	
3.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-II (RJ-10) Km. 509 to Km. 449.15 (Rajasthan)	76	60	ADB	378.22	April, 2008	
4.	RJ/MP Border to Kota EW-II (RJ-9) Km. 449.15 to Km. 408.00 (Rajasthan)	76	43	ADB	297.72	April, 2008	
5.	Kota to Chittorgarh EW-II (RJ-8) Km. 381.00 to Km 31 6.00 (Rajasthan)	76	65	ADB	446.4	April, 2008	Liquidated Damages— 1/2000th of Contract Price per day for delay in completion subject to a maximum of 10% of contract price
6.	Kota to Chittorgarh EW-II (RJ-7) Km. 316.00 to Km 253.00 (Rajasthan)	76	63	ADB	440.5	April, 2008	
7.	Chittorgarh Bypass + Km 253.00 to Km 229.25 EW-II (RJ-6) (Rajasthan)	76	40	ADB	384.25	April, 2008	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Kota Bypass EW-II (RJ-4) Km 406.00 to Km 381.00 (Rajasthan)	76	25	NHAI	228.00	July, 2008	Liquidated Damages— 1/2000th of Contract Price per day for delay in completion subject to a maximum of 10% of contract price
9.	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3) Km 73 to Km 104.74 (Rajasthan)	76	31	NHAI	266	June, 2008	
10.	Bekaria to Gogunda (RJ-2) Km 29 to Km 73 (Rajasthan)	76	44	NHAI	457.00	May, 2008	
11.	Swaroopganj to Bekariya (RJ-1) Km 249.70 to Km. 264.00 Km 0.00 to Km 29.00 (Rajasthan)	14 & 17	43	NHAI	220.00	June, 2008	

Restarting of Coke Oven Plant

3912. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restart the coke oven plant of the Central Coalfield in Girdih; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As reported by "Coal India Limited (CIL), the report prepared by Central Mines Planning Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), on the revival of Girdih Coke Plant is under scrutiny/ study.

[English]

Enhancement of Budgetary Support to Government Hospitals

3913. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government Hospitals such as Safdarjung and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia are provided less budgetary support in comparison to that of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enhance the budgetary support to the Government Hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The budgetary allocations to Government hospitals and other Institutes are made Keeping in view the schemes and projects approved for implementation during the particular year. No comparison of the budget outlay of these hospitals/institutions is made while allocations are approved in the Annual Budget.

(c) to (e) Budgetary allocations to these Government Hospitals have also gone up over the years.

Action Plan for Commonwealth Games, 2010

3914. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any action plan to make Commonwealth Games, 2010 eco-friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) DDA has initiated the process for environment Impact Assessment of its venues and the Government of NCT of Delhi have also drawn up plans to ease traffic congestion and improve horticulture in and around stadia and important tourist destinations. The Government of NCT of Delhi also propose to use street furniture including dustbins and mechanical sweepers in important streets so as to improve the overall environment of Delhi.

Decline In BSNL and MTNL Mobile Services

3915. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL/MTNL's growth in mobile telephone is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the mobile telephone growth of both the BSNL/the MTNL and their efficiency facing at present a stiff competition from private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. BSNL and MTNL are witnessing a high growth rate in mobile connections as seen from the following details:

As on	Cellular mobile connections		Combined market share of BSNL + MTNL
	BSNL	MTNL	
31-03-2004	5254117	360550	21.46%
31-03-2005	9447357	881698	25.17%
31-03-2006	17163761	1941155	27.87%

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

(c) BSNL and MTNL have been continuously augmenting their network in terms of coverage and capacity. Additional features like voice mail service, itemized bill, closed user group, help line/call center etc.

to keep in pace with evolution of technology and to provide good service to the customers.

Release of Commemorative Postage Stamp

3916. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for the release of a commemorative stamp in memory of Late T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, the freedom fighter;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Department has received proposals for release of a commemorative postage stamp on late Shri T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, freedom fighter from time to time. On each occasion the proposal was examined and not found in consonance with the existing guidelines governing issue of stamps.

(c) As per the existing guidelines, the personalities on whom commemorative postage stamps may be issued should be of national/international importance, and the occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary, etc.

Jeevansathi Mobile Telephone Scheme

3917. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has launched Jeevansathi mobile telephone scheme in four metres for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the total connections provided under this scheme;

(c) whether there was an overwhelming response to the scheme;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend or launch afresh scheme to cover more subscribers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, MTNL has launched Jeevansathi mobile telephone scheme in Delhi and Mumbai for general public. The scheme was made available at concessional rate for Central Government employees for a limited period.

(b) The total number of connections provided under this scheme for Central Government employees is 1,20,054.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The scheme continue to exist for general public. However, the facility of this scheme at concessional rate for Central Government employees in Delhi was available up to 10.04.2006 only. In Mumbai, this scheme has been made available at concessional rate for employees of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and MTNL up to 15.05.2006. There is no proposal to extend the scheme

at concessional rate. However, Central Government employees can still avail the scheme at par with the general public.

Expansion of Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

3918. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing capacity of telephone exchanges in Aurangabad district in Maharashtra had been expanded during 2005-2006;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exchange-wise details of the expanded capacity of telephone exchanges of BSNL in Aurangabad SSA of Maharashtra during 2005-06 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Total expenditure incurred thereon for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 2,66,08,914/-.

Statement

Details of capacity expansion of telephone exchanges in Aurangabad SSA during 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity as on 31-03-2005 (In Lines)	Capacity Expanded during 2005-06 (In Lines)	Capacity as on 31-03-2006 (In Lines)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Takli Ambad	200	48	248
2.	Galleborgaon	360	128	488
3.	Nachanvel	336	56	392
4.	Gevarai	184	64	248
5.	Mahalgaoon	184	64	248
6.	Undangaon	336	32	368
7.	Sultanpur	352	32	384

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Karanjikhed	400	32	432
9.	Kadethan	200	48	248
10.	Andhari	352	16	368
11.	Jatwada	New	152	152
12.	Ganori	368	80	448
13.	Golaigaon	336	96	432
14.	Jategaon	184	64	248
15.	Gajgaon	120	64	184
16.	Buttewadgaon	280	104	384
17.	Daultabad	968	32	1000
18.	Aurala	320	16	336
19.	Shelgaon	184	64	248
20.	Chinchagdaon	184	64	248
WLL				
1.	Gangapur	New BTS	750	750
2.	Karmad	New BTS	750	750
3.	Shivar	New BTS	750	750
4.	Bidkin	New BTS	750	750
5.	Aland	New BTS	750	750

Re-location of National Institute of Sports

3919. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to relocate the National Institute of Sports from Patiala to Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of CGHS Dispensary

3920. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4192 dated December 21, 2005 regarding construction of CGHS Dispensary in Shalimar Bagh, Delhi and state:

(a) whether the construction of the said CGHS Dispensary has started;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction would be completed and the same would start functioning;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in the construction of the said dispensary; and

(d) the details of additional features of this dispensary compared to the ones already functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Construction work of CGHS Dispensary in Shalimar Bagh Delhi has commenced and is expected to be completed by end of the year.

(c) In view of reply above, question does not arise.

(d) The same facilities will be provided to Shalimar Dispensary as done in case of other Dispensaries under CGHS.

[Translation]

Linking of NH-7 with NH-12-A

3921. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link the National Highway-7 with the National Highway-12-A at Jabalpur through a bypass link road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Bypass to Jabalpur already exists on NH-7 linking to NH-12. The traffic on NH-12A does not warrant another bypass at present.

[English]

Cyclone Warning Radars

3922. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance/technology has been sought from the foreign countries to develop a satellite for providing prior information in regard to cyclones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has made any progress regarding cyclone warning radars for installation in cyclone affected States;

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

(e) whether some radars are currently under operation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Indian Space Research Organisation has developed an indigenous Doppler Weather Radar and installed at Sriharikota. It is being operated by the Indian Meteorological Department for monitoring weather systems within its range.

[Translation]

Fast Breeder Reactors in Military List

3923. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists have suggested that under the Atomic Programme, the fast breeder reactors should be kept in the military list for the minimum striking capability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the International Atomic Energy Agency has been provided with the civilian list to enable them to inspect our atomic plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Existing Fast Breeder Reactors have not been included in the civilian list under the agreed separation plan.

(c) and (d) Not yet, since the India specific safeguard arrangements are presently being worked out.

[English]

Purchase of Stationery Articles from Kendriya Bhandar

3924. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) had considered the question regarding purchase of stationery articles from the Kendriya Bhandar (KB);

(b) if so, the recommendations of the CoS in this regard;

(c) whether these recommendations have been implemented by the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the recommendations without any further delay?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CoS recommended modification of Department of Personnel & Training's (DOFF) O.M. dated 14.7.1981 to the effect that purchases up to Rs. 10,000/- may be made from Kendriya Bhandar (KB)/National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) without tender but purchases beyond this value should be done through limited or open tender as the case may be.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Finance has issued new General Financial Rules, 2005 (GFR) modifying the provisions of GFR, 1963. They have clarified that the special dispensation, available under the earlier GFRs

are no longer available after the GFRs have been revised and all purchases should now be made in accordance with the provisions of GFR, 2005.

De-linking of Vadinar from Kandla Port

3925. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether Gujarat had submitted a proposal to the Union Government to de-link Vadinar from Kandla Port;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any decision in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith its present status?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Gujarat Government had requested Government of India to delink Vadinar area from Kandla Port limits and to revert it to Government of Gujarat. Vadinar was included in the limits of Kandla Port after the Government of Gujarat issued notification deleting it from the limits of Minor Port of Salaya, and the Government of India issued simultaneous notification including it in the limits of Kandla Port. Kandla Port developed Vadinar for handling of liquid cargo. The request of Government of Gujarat to hand over the Vadinar Port to State Government has not been agreed to.

Unaccounted Funds with AIMS

3926. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Audit Report 2004-05 prepared by the Director General of Audit, Central Revenue shows that funds worth crores are lying unaccounted with the AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the report during the last five years there was excess of income over expenditure;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined this report;

(e) whether a number of members submitted a memorandum to the PM for scrapping the user charges at AIIMS;

(f) if so, the action taken thereon;

(g) whether a demand has also been made to investigate into an unauthorized fund of over Rs. 30 crores being maintained in the AIIMS; and

(h) if so, the details thereof 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) to (h) The details are being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Medicine for Cancer Cure

3927. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any information regarding a breakthrough by D.S. Research Centre, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to cure cancer through a certain medicine;

(b) if so, whether the Government has given approval to the said cancer medicine of D.S. Research Centre;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether assistance is likely to be provided by the Union Government for patenting of this product and other allied activities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha has contacted Prof. S. Trivedi of the D.S. Research Centre, Baranasi, U.P. to provide scientific data on standardization of the medicine, pre-clinical safety/toxicity studies etc. He has submitted a list of large number of ingredients contained in the medicine most of which are not identifiable. The Centre has failed to furnish requisite information for verification of their claim regarding development of anti-cancer drug.

Declaration of Routes of Peripheral Expressway as National Highways

3928. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to declare the routes of Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway projects as National Highways before the commencement of the Commonwealth Games as reported in 'The Rashtriya Sahara' dated March 06, 2006;

(b) if so, the total length of the road in kilometres likely to be constructed;

(c) whether an assessment in this regard has been made;

(d) whether a plan for the construction of this route has been prepared;

(e) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent on the projects;

(f) whether the task of land acquisition has been completed by the Government in order to commence the said work;

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

(h) if not, the time by which this is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The alignment of Eastern Peripheral Expressway has already been declared as National Highway No. NE-II vide Gazette Notification S.O. No. 460(E) dated 30.03.2006. Western Peripheral Expressway has so far not been declared as National Highway.

(b) and (c) The total length of Western Peripheral Expressway is 135.65 Km. and the approximate length of Eastern Peripheral Expressway is 135 Km.

(d) Plan for Western Peripheral Expressway has been finalized. Detailed Plan for Eastern Peripheral Expressway has so far not been finalized.

(e) Estimated cost of Western Peripheral Expressway including cost of land acquisition is Rs. 1830 crore. As per the preliminary estimates the estimated cost of the Eastern Peripheral Expressway including cost of land acquisition is Rs. 2290 crore.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) For Western Peripheral Expressway land acquisition is targetted to be completed by 31.05.2006 while for Eastern Peripheral Expressway, it is targetted to be completed by 30.09.2006.

Setting up of Central Labour Promotion Council

3929. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an organisation like the Central Labour Promotion Council;

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

(c) whether any discussions in this regard were held during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Youths Going Abroad

3930. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of youths who went abroad after completing technical training in India during the last three years;

(b) the estimated number of youths who have come back to India during the said period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to lay down some conditions in respect of the youths desirous of going abroad after completing technical training in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Persons possessing two or three year technical diplomas are entitled to have ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) endorsement on their passports and, thus, do not required emigration clearance under the Emigration Act, 1983 for going abroad for employment. As such, the question of maintaining any data or laying down any conditions for such category of persons does not arise.

Review of Indus Water Treaty

3931. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to review the Indus Water treaty between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the same has been reviewed in the past;

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

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Reviewing Working of Right to Information Act

3932. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the working of the Right to Information Act;

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

(c) whether the Central Information Commission has given questionable ruling by endorsing a proposal to prescribe a standard format for the purpose of making an application;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the decision is contrary to the provisions of the Act;

(f) if so, the steps taken to correct the anomaly;

(g) the details of the names of States that have constituted or yet to constitute Information Commission; and

(h) the details of the services being rendered by the Information Commission?

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

(a) and (b) The Right to Information Act, 2005 has come into force only on 12th October, 2005. It is too early to review the working of the Act.

(c) to (f) The Central Information Commission in its decision No. CIC/C/200 dated 16-1-2006 had held that a public authority was not precluded from prescribing standard format for the purpose of making the application for case of reference and response. However, this decision was reviewed by the Commission on 08.02.2006, when

it held that it is incumbent upon any public authority prescribing a format that it remains simple and comprehensible as well as accessible to common folk. The Commission has further clarified that the applications for information on plain paper are also to be received and replied within the prescribed time limit.

(g) According to the information available, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have appointed Chief Information Commissioners.

States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim are yet to make such appointments.

(h) The Information Commission performs functions as assigned to it under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

[Translation]

Problems of Indians Workers in Gulf

3933. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether a large number of Indian workers in the Gulf have not been paid their dues by their contracting Organisations/authorities;

(b) if so, whether the Government has blacklisted some Qatar based companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether complaints regarding ill treatment and exploitation of workers are rampant, particularly in Gulf countries;

(e) whether numerous cases/disputes regarding death benefits, legal dues etc. of Indian workers are pending in several countries;

(f) if so, the complete details thereof, country-wise;

(g) whether an MoU already exists under which Gulf companies are expected to pay fixed minimum wages to Indian workers there;

(h) if so, the details and the reasons for not complying with the same; and

(i) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the Indian workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per the information collected from the Indian Missions in the Gulf, sporadic complaints are received from Indian workers relating to non-payment or delayed payment of salaries and other benefits.

(b) and (c) Presently, there are sixteen Qatari Companies which have been blacklisted on the basis of reports received from the Indian Mission concerned.

(d) to (f) Complaints regarding ill treatment and exploitation of workers as well as cases/disputes regarding service benefits, legal dues etc. are received. The Indian Missions are taking up such cases with the Labour Ministry and offering legal advice to the workers if they need to go to court.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad for employment, it has been made mandatory w.e.f. 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, viz., demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, i.e., unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers; and in respect of nine countries, viz., Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Tanzania, Israel, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait and Brunei, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission(s). In addition, our Missions

have, with the help of Community Welfare Associations and other community support groups, been providing legal assistance/counselling to protect the interest of Indian workers. Besides, the Emigration Act, 1983 is proposed to be amended with a view to reinforce protection to the Indian emigrants. The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana has also been upgraded recently to provide better benefits to the emigrants.

[English]

Modern Facilities in Hospitals

3934. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH pleased to state:

(a) whether well equipped investigation facilities like MRI, Digital X-rays are available for outdoor patients in the Safdarjung and the RML Hospitals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CGHS beneficiaries are required to obtain permission first from their dispensaries for availing investigation facilities in the private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognized under CGHS;

(d) if so, there is any proposal to allow beneficiaries to get these facilities directly from the CGHS recognized hospitals/centres on the basis of the prescription of the doctors of the Government hospitals;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether senior citizens are not given preference in the examination by doctors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Well equipped investigation facilities like X-ray & MRI facilities are available for all indoor and outdoor patients in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

(e) To keep a check on the expenditure on diagnostic tests especially when such tests facilities are available in the Government Hospitals/polyclinics, etc. CGHS beneficiaries have to get permission to get diagnostic tests carried out in private hospitals/diagnostic centers recognized under CGHS.

(f) and (g) The Senior Citizens are given priority by doctors in examining them. There is a separate counter for them for registration.

Augmentation of Cellular Phone Equipments

3935. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has recently floated tenders for augmenting cellular phone equipments for the purpose of expanding upgrading Cellular Network in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL is expected to add 20 million cellular users, yearly after upgradation of the Cellular Network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has floated a tender for expanding its cellular network by 45.5 million lines in North, East and South Zone during the next three years. This also includes expansion of its cellular network in rural areas. For West Zone, 18 million lines are planned to be augmented.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Capacity of 6 million lines in West Zone, 5 million lines each in South and North Zones and 4 million lines in East Zone are planned to be added each year.

[*Translation*]

Chikunguniya Menace

3936. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the deaths caused due to 'Chikunguniya' a dengue like fever that is spreading in several States of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the spread of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware about spread of Chikunguniya in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The high incidence of fever cases with arthralgia were reported from 15 districts of Andhra Pradesh, 17 districts of Karnataka and 15 districts of Maharashtra. State-wise distribution of suspected Chikunguniya fever is indicated below:

State	No. of districts affected	No. of suspected Chikunguniya fever cases	No. of deaths
Andhra Pradesh	15	26864	0
Karnataka	17	107740	0
Maharashtra	15	34725	0
Tamil Nadu	9	1949	0

(c) The Government of India has taken following steps to contain the spread of Chikunguniya:

- (i) Deputed teams consisting of epidemiologist, public health specialists, microbiologist for assessment of the situation and provided technical assistance to the states for technical support and guidance.
- (ii) Disseminated comprehensive technical guidelines to States regarding preventive and promotive measures to contain the spread of Chikunguniya, diagnosis & symptomatic treatment of Chikunguniya fever.
- (iii) The States have been supplied larvicides and Pyrethrum Extract 2% for fogging:

States	Temephos	Pyrethrum Extt.
Andhra Pradesh	1200 Litres	1500 Litres
Karnataka	500 Litres	1000 Litres
Maharashtra	2000 Litres	1950 Litres

[English]

Relaxing Visa Rules by Arab Countries

3937. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the Arab countries to relax their visa rules for the benefit of Indian businessmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether requests for multi-entry and long term visas were also made; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Arab Countries in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Government has been taking up the issue of liberalization of visa regimes including grant of multiple entry and long-term visas to Indian businessmen with Arab countries.

(d) Several of these countries have indicated their willingness to favourably consider the proposal.

Eradication of Vector Borne Diseases

3938. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to eradicate the vector borne diseases in the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated and utilized therefor during the current year;

(d) whether the Government has also sought help of international agencies to combat these disease; and

(e) if so, the response of the international agencies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India is implementing the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for prevention and control of Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis and Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis by 2015 and Elimination of Kala-azar by 2010.

(b) The NVBDCP strategy comprises:

- (i) Early diagnosis and prompt treatment.
- (ii) Integrated vector management by use of appropriate mix of vector control measures (Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in selected pockets, anti larval measures in urban areas, use of insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs), larvivorous fishes and environmental and minor engineering methods).
- (iii) Epidemic preparedness and rapid response.
- (iv) Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) for generating awareness & social mobilization through different media.
- (v) Inter-sectoral collaboration by involving other departments, civil society organizations, corporate sectors and local self-government etc.
- (vi) Human Resource Development through capacity building of medical and paramedical personnel, partner organizations by training at primary, secondary & tertiary levels, operational research; and
- (vii) Monitoring and evaluation through periodic reviews, field visits and web based Management Information System.

(c) During the year 2005-06, Rs. 264.22 crores were allocated, out of which Rs. 260.43 Crores were utilized. The budget provision for 2006-07 is Rs. 371.58 crores.

(d) and (e) A Grant Agreement has been signed on 27th June, 2005 for launch of Intensified Malana Control Project with assistance from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in North Eastern (NE) States, selected high risk areas of Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal to increase access to rapid diagnosis and treatment through community participation; reduce malaria transmission risk by use of insecticide treated bednets and larvivorous fish; and enhance awareness about malaria control and promote community, NGOs and private sector participation.

GQ Project In A.P.

3939. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the stretches completed in Andhra Pradesh under the Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) the details of the works pending completion under the project; and

(c) the proposed time schedule for completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Partial length of Srikakulam-Champawati Section of NH-5 remains for completion.

(c) Expected date of completion is December, 2006.

Statement

S.No.	Stretch	National Highway	Length (in km)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ichapuram-Korlam (km 233 - km 200)	5	33
2.	Korlam-Palasa (km 200 - km 171)	5	29.00
3.	Palasa-Srikakulam (km 171 - km 97)	5	74.00
4.	Bridges section Srikakulam-Ichapuram (km 233 - km 96)	5	—
5.	Srikakulam-Champawati (Balance Work) (Km 97 - km 49)	5	48.00
6.	Champawati-Vishakhapatnam (km 49 - km 2.8)	5	46.20
7.	Bridges section (km 49 - km 97) Champavati-Srikakulam	5	—
8.	Vishakhapatnam-Ankapalli (km 397 - km 359)	5	38.00
9.	Ankapalli-Tuni (km 359.2 - km 300)	5	59.2
10.	Tuni-Dhannavaram (km 300 - km 253)	5	47.00
11.	Dharmavanam-Rajahmundry (km 253 - km 200)	5	53.00
12.	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)-Gowthami (km 200 - km 164.5)	5	35.5
13.	Bridge Section (km 162 - km 200) V-V section	5	—
14.	Gowthami-Gundugolanu (km 154.5 - km 80)	5	74.5
15.	Bridges section (km 80 - km 162) V-V Section	5	—

1	2	3	4
16.	Vijayawada-Rajamundry Section (near Eluru) (km 75 - km 80)	5	5.00
17.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package (km 75.0-km 3.4)	5	72.00
18.	Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet Package I (km 355 - km 380)	5	25.00
19.	Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet Package II (km 380 - km 396.8) including Guntur Bypass (km 0 - km 15.2)	5	32.00
20.	Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet Package III (km 408 - km 420.5) including Krishna Bridge Approach (km 0 - km 10.8)	5	23.75
21.	Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet Package IV (km 10.8 - km 13. 68) (1792 m Krishna Bridge + 1095m approach road)	5	2.88
22.	Chilakaluripet-Ongole (km 357.9 - km 291)	5	66.00
23.	Ongole-Kavali (km 291 - km 222)	5	69.00
24.	Kavali-Nellore (km 222 - km 178)	5	44.00
25.	Nellore Bypass (km 178.2 - km 161)	5	17.20
26.	Nellore-Tada (km 163.6 - km 52.8)	5	110.40

Promotion of Hindi Abroad

3940. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of programmes organised in foreign countries with regard to the promotion of Hindi during the last three years;

(b) whether guidelines issued in regard to progressive use of Hindi are implemented by the Indian embassies in foreign countries on an annual basis;

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

(d) whether publicity programmes are conducted for use and promotion of Hindi in foreign countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the above period; and

(f) the names of countries wherein Hindi is taught in Universities and Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to

(e) With a view to promote Hindi our Missions abroad organize various events such as kavi sammelans, mushairas, Hindi essay and debate competitions for children, Hindi workshops jointly with local universities where Hindi is taught and cultural programmes from time to time. Regional Hindi Conferences are also being organised by the Missions with the assistance of the Ministry. 14th September is celebrated as Hindi Diwas every year. For the first time 10th January this year was celebrated as World Hindi Day by many Missions.

Necessary instructions are sent by the Ministry to the Missions from time to time asking them to ensure compliance of the official language rules, annual programme and the guidelines issued by the Deptt. of Official Language. Given the fact that the Missions have to deal with the local Government in the official language of the country concerned, they try to implement these guidelines to the extent possible.

Wide publicity is given by the Missions regarding facility for learning Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi and Mahatama Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. Indian cultural programmes including Hindi film festivals are also organised which help in promotion of Hindi in those countries.

(f) Details are given in the enclosed statement which is placed on the table of the House based on the information furnished by the Missions.

Statement

1. Guyana
2. Italy
3. Portugal
4. Thailand
5. Romania
6. Germany
7. Japan
8. Canada
9. Nepal
10. Kazakhstan
11. Pakistan
12. Czech Republic
13. Croatia
14. Armenia
15. Tajikistan
16. Mauritius
17. Israel
18. Poland
19. Uzbekistan
20. Hungary
21. Ukraine
22. UK
23. USA
24. Fiji
25. Norway
26. China
27. Vietnam
28. Bulgaria
29. South Korea

30. Minsk
31. Australia
32. Austria
33. Kenya
34. Turkey

Establishment of New Medical Colleges

3941. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
DR. P.P. KOYA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the number of medical colleges run by Government and Private Sector currently in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number out of the above colleges imparting only under graduate courses or post graduate medical studies separately;

(c) the number of proposals received for sanction of new medical colleges during the year 2005-06 from the States, State-wise;

(d) the number of medical colleges sanctioned during the above period, State-wise;

(e) the number of proposals for establishment of new medical colleges pending at present alongwith the reasons therefore, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF, STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) At present total 242 medical colleges are functioning in the country. State-wise number of medical colleges in Govt. Sector and Pvt. Sector is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) As per Medical Council of India out of 242 medical colleges 171 medical colleges are running the PG courses.

(c) During the year 2005 a total of 58 proposals were received. Out of which 22 proposals were found to be in order. In addition, 24 proposals for the year 2004 were also pending. The state-wise break up as under:—

1. Andhra Pradesh	-	7
2. Assam	-	3
3. Chhattisgarh	-	2
4. Delhi	-	2
5. Karnataka	-	7
6. Kerala	-	3
7. Manipur	-	1
8. Maharashtra	-	1
9. Orissa	-	2
10. Pondicherry	-	3
11. Punjab	-	1
12. Tamilnadu	-	4
13. Tripura	-	1
14. Uttranchal	-	5

15. Uttar Pradesh	-	3
16. West Bengal	-	1

(d) Permission of the Central Govt. has been granted for establishment of following number of new medical colleges from the year 2005-06, State-wise:

1. Andhra Pradesh	-	4
2. Kamataka	-	1
3. Kerala	-	1
4. Madhya Pradesh	-	1
5. Maharashtra	-	1
6. Orissa	-	1
7. Tripura	-	1
8. Tamilnadu	-	1

(e) and (f) Out of the proposals referred to in reply to part (c) above, permission has been granted for establishment of new medical college one each in Pondicherry and Tamilnadu. Clearance of remaining proposals depends on fulfilling the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulation of MCI, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of MCI thereon.

Statement

Number of Medical Colleges in the Country—State-wise as on 5.10.2005

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Medical Colleges		Total	Total Number of Seats
		Govt./Uni.	Private		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	21	31	3925
2.	Assam	3	—	3	391
3.	Bihar	6	2	8	510
4.	Chandigarh	1	—	1	50
5.	Chhatisgarh	2	—	2	200
6.	Delhi	5	—	5	560
7.	Goa	1	—	1	100

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Gujarat	8	5	13	1625
9.	Haryana	1	2	3	350
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—	2	115
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1	4	350
12.	Jharkhand	3	—	3	190
13.	Karnataka	4	28	32	4005
14.	Kerala	6	9	15	1650
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5	3	8	970
16.	Maharashtra	19	20	39	4410
17.	Manipur	1	—	1	100
18.	Orissa	3	1	4	464
19.	Pondicherry	1	4	5	475
20.	Punjab	3	3	6	520
21.	Rajasthan	6	2	8	800
22.	Sikkim	1	—	1	100
23.	Tamil Nadu	14	8	22	2515
24.	Tripura	1		1	100
25.	Uttar Pradesh	9	4	13	1412
26.	Uttaranchal		2	2	200
27.	West Bengal	9	—	9	1105
Total		127	115	242	27192
Govt. Colleges		122			
University Colleges		5			
Private Colleges		115			
Total:		242			

Cost of Telephone Operations

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

3942. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring down the cost of telecom operations in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to rationalize and make affordable the cost of telecom operations in the country.

(b) Some of the important steps taken by the Government in recent past to reduce the cost of telecom operations are as follows:

- (i) The customs duty on import of telecom equipments covered under Information Technology Agreement (ITA) 1 has been reduced to zero.
- (ii) Licence Fee for International Long Distance (ILD), National Long Distance (NLD) and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Commercial services has been reduced to 6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) with effect from 01.01.2006 from its previous level of 8-15%.
- (iii) Government is facilitating a private sector initiative for sharing of infrastructure for mobile services by all operators in Delhi and Mumbai resulting in savings on capital cost and operational expenses.
- (iv) Access Deficit Charge (ADC) has migrated to Revenue Share basis from per minute basis and maximum carriage cost has come down to 65 paise from 110 paise.

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

Export of C-DoT Switches

3943. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether C-DoT proposes to develop cost effective technologies to compete with, global players;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether C-DoT switches are being exported to other countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of thrust areas to be initiated by C-DoT during 2006-07?

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

(b) C-DoT, has re-prioritised its short term and long-term R&D plans and projects to address the challenges of the competitive markets. The major telecom solutions being developed include.

- Innovation services for Business and Industry
- Advanced Intelligent Networks Services
- High bit rate network backbone on fiber and satellite
- Cell and Packet technologies for Voice and Data convergence
- Wireless and Mobile Communication

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The last export of switches has been to Afghanistan through TCIL for their telecom re-construction program for various districts.

(e) The new thrust areas initiated by C-DoT during 2006-2007 apart from those mentioned in para (b) include the following:

- Internet Protocol (IP) over satellite
- Broadband over power lines
- Optical cross connects

Dope Testing of Sportspersons

3944. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

- (a) whether the results of dope testings in some cases of Indian sportspersons were found positive in the recently held Commonwealth Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against them;
- (c) the details of the number of participants banned from participating due to using banned drugs during the last five years and the current year;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future;

(e) whether the Union Government has constituted the National Anti-Doping Agency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Two Indian weightlifters, namely, Raju Edwin—56 Kg. (4th position) and Taninder Singh—85 Kg. (pre competition testing) tested positive for banned drugs and were provisionally banned by the Commonwealth Games Federation and the International Weightlifting Federation. These two weightlifters have been banned by the Indian Weightlifting Federation for life.

(c) Thirteen sportspersons have been banned from participating in International events during the last five years and the current year owing to their using banned drugs.

(d) to (f) The Government of India has set up a National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) under the Societies Registration Act in the month of November, 2005, with a view to harmonizing, coordinating and implementing the rules and regulations relating to Anti-Doping in sports to combat taking banned drugs by our sportspersons as per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code. Besides, in January 2005 India has also signed the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sports-2003. The aim of the Declaration is that signatories to this Declaration act within their respective constitutional and other legal provisions for fighting against doping in Sports.

Apart from the above, random tests of sportspersons are also carried out during different stages of their training and preparation for events.

Families Affected by Nuclear Power Station

3945 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the families of Pofran and Akkarpatti villages of Thane district in Maharashtra affected due to establishment of Nuclear Power Station;

(b) whether all the Project Affected Families (PAFs) have been rehabilitated;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether High Court of Mumbai in an interim order had directed specific reliefs and rehabilitation measures for the PAFs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the present status of implementation of interim order of the court; and

(g) the measures taken to address the issues raised by PAFs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 1251 families, 551 from Akkarpatti and 700 families from Pophran villages are affected.

(b) The rehabilitation of Project Affected Families (PAF) are being implemented by the State Government of Maharashtra with the funds provided by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). The construction of dwelling units for the Project Affected Families (PAF) by the state government is expected to be completed by 30th June 2006. NPCIL has paid rental to the PAFs for temporary accommodation through state government.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The directives given by the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai from time to time are as under-

- The No. of PAFs were raised from 1167 families to 1251 families.
- The PAFs were awarded the rental for temporary accommodation @ Rs. 15,000/- per family on two occasions.
- Each PAF has been allotted a developed plot of size ranging from 185 sq. mts. to 740 sq. mts. depending on the size of PAF.
- Each PAF is being provided with a duly constructed house of 372 sq. fts built up area at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.9 lakhs.

(f) and (g) All interim directives to NPCIL by the Hon. High Court have been implemented. Further measures, if any, would depend on the final order of the Hon'ble High Court.

Growth Rate in States

3946. SHRI. B. MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rates of different States have not been uniform;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor specially in major sectors, State-wise, during 2004-2006;

(c) whether some of the poorest States have actually seen a deceleration in growth;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for uniform growth rate and regional balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise and broad sector-wise/growth performance for the period 2002-04, as per the latest

available data are given in the enclosed statement. The data for the period 2004-06 are not available. The uneven growth across the States is mostly attributed to the historical inequality and initial economic conditions. Also, some States may have generally had better governance and followed growth-enhancing policies more effectively than others.

(c) and (d) Some of the poorest States have experienced deceleration in growth. The State-wise per capita income for the year 2003-04 and the corresponding growth performance during 1999-2000 to 2003-04 are given in statement-II enclosed.

(e) Reducing regional imbalance has been one of the objectives of planning since its inception. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) specifies State-wise break-up of growth rates with a view to encourage introspection at the State level as well as to serve as a catalyst to reinvigorate planning at the State level. During the Tenth Plan, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) was initiated with the main objectives of putting in place programmes and policies with the joint efforts of the Centre and the States to remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people. From the current financial year 2006-07, a Backward Regions Grant Fund, which subsumes the on-going RSVY, would be operationalised.

Statement I

State-wise Growth Performance at 1993-94 Prices

S.No	State/Sector	CAGR (2003-04/2001-02)			
		Agriculture	Industry	Services	GSDP (All-Sector)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.4	8.3	5.3	6.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.8	5.9	3.1	4.2
3.	Assam	-0.1	6.7	5.4	5.1
4.	Bihar	3.6	4.3	4.0	4.9
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.3	13.1	5.0	8.9
6.	Goa	4.5	6.6	7.1	8.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	20.9	13.7	5.5	12.7
8.	Haryana	4.3	5.6	6.2	6.8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.0	6.2	5.2	6.4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.2	6.0	3.5	5.1
11.	Jharkhand	3.8	14.0	-2.8	5.8
12.	Karnataka	-6.3	8.3	6.5	5.7
13.	Kerala	2.6	10.8	7.3	9.5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6.4	5.1	3.9	5.8
15.	Maharashtra	-4.0	10.1	6.2	7.6
16.	Manipur	3.5	19.2	6.4	10.1
17.	Meghalaya	3.1	7.0	4.3	5.8
18.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA
19.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	1.2	12.7	5.0	6.9
21.	Punjab	1.2	5.2	4.6	4.3
22.	Rajasthan	7.4	4.2	5.6	6.9
23.	Sikkim	11.0	6.3	5.7	8.5
24.	Tamil Nadu	-12.8	3.5	5.4	3.3
25.	Tripura	NA	NA	NA	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh (divided)	2.3	6.6	4.5	5.2
27.	Uttaranchal	4.2	17.2	6.8	10.3
28.	West Bengal	0.0	4.7	8.0	7.3
All India		1.0	6.6	5.6	6.2

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32—Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India—Central Statistical Organisation

Statement-II**Statewise Per Capita Income and Growth Rate
(Position as on 23-02-2006)**

Sl.No.	State/UT	PCI (in Rupees)	
		2003-2004	CAGR* 1999-2000 to 2003-04
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	3557	2.0
2.	Uttar Pradesh	5975	1.3
3.	Assam	6466	2.8
4.	Orissa	6487	3.1
5.	Jharkhand	7732	1.7
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	7878	1.6
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8284	0.1
8.	Chattisgarh	8383	5.8
9.	Manipur	8751	5.4
10.	Uttaranchal	9471	6.9
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	9678	2.1
12.	Rajasthan	9685	3.2
13.	Meghalaya	10795	4.7
14.	West Bengal	11612	5.7
15.	Andhra Pradesh	11756	5.6
16.	Sikkim	12026	5.1
17.	Kerala	12328	4.3
18.	Himachal Pradesh	12765	3.7
19.	Tamil Nadu	12976	1.6
20.	Karnataka	13141	4.8
21.	Haryana	15752	4.3
22.	Punjab	16119	2.1
23.	Maharashtra	16479	1.9

1	2	3	4
24.	Gujarat	16779	6.0
25.	Goa	30506	4.7
26.	Mizoram	NA	NA
27.	Nagaland	NA	NA
28.	Tripura	NA	NA
All-India		11799	4.0

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32—Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India—Central Statistical Organisation

*CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate

Regulatory Body on Road Safety

3947. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state?

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in *The Indian Express* dated October 10, 2005 with regard to Regulatory Body on Road Safety;

(b) whether the Government proposes to constitute such a Regulatory Body;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Trauma Centres have been planned;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government is planning to establish the same;

(f) if so, whether any interim arrangements have been put in place to minimize accidents on the Highways, till the formation of this Regulatory Body; and

(g) 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) In terms of the directions of the Committee on Infrastructure headed by the Prime Minister, this Ministry has approached the Committee of Secretaries in the matter of setting up of a Commissionerate of Road Safety and Traffic Management.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Former Secretary, the then Ministry of Surface Transport and Distinguished Fellow, TERI has also been constituted and remitted to, inter-alia, deliberate and make recommendations on creation of an effective and dedicated agency for Road Safety and Traffic Regulation.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/trauma care facilities in Government/District Hospitals, located near the National Highways for the purpose of treatment of accident victims.

(f) and (g) Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to minimize the road accidents and deaths are as under:

- (i) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (ii) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (iii) Setting up of Driving Training Schools in the country.
- (iv) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (v) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (vi) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (vii) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.
- (viii) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

Collaboration between India and Gulf Cooperation Council

3948. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council have decided to work together in new areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified for collaboration?

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

(b) India and GCC signed a Framework Agreement for enhancing and developing economic cooperation between the two sides at New Delhi on August 25, 2004. Under the agreement, India and GCC have agreed to expand and liberalize their trade relations and to hold discussions to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between them. The first round of negotiations on the proposed FTA on trade in goods was held in Riyadh on March 21-22, 2006 wherein it was agreed that goods, services as well as investment and general economic cooperation would be covered in the proposed FTA. The next round of FTA negotiations is expected to be held on May 24-25, 2006 in New Delhi.

India and GCC have held two sessions of the Indo-GCC Industrial Conference, in Mumbai on February 17-18, 2004 and in Muscat, Oman on March 25-26, 2006. It was decided during the Muscat Industrial Conference to promote a strategic economic cooperation by enhancing partnership through joint ventures in the fields of industry, energy, petrochemicals, ICT, biotechnology and tourism and by promoting cooperation in R&D, S&T, Education and promoting SMEs. It has also been agreed that the 3rd India-GCC Industrial Conference will be held in India during March 2007 along with a proposed investment summit.

In the political sphere, India and the GCC have been holding an annual political dialogue at Foreign Ministers' level on the sidelines of the UNGA since 2003.

Rescheduling of Outstanding Central Loans

3949. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Twelfth Finance Commission for rescheduling of outstanding Central Loans to States has been implemented;

(b) if so, the problems Likely to be faced by financially weaker States in raising loans at standard rates following the Twelfth Finance Commission Award;

(c) the likely adverse impact on the plan expenditure of the States on account of their inability to raise the required funds; and

(d) the measures the Union Government proposes to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) in its report recommended a scheme of Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF) for States. According to this Scheme, the central loans (Ministry of Finance) of States disbursed upto 31.03.2004 and as outstanding on 31.03.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for a fresh term of 20 years with repayments in 20 equal installments, carrying a lower interest rate of 7.5%, subject to States enacting their Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA) with the core provisions, inter alia, to eliminate revenue deficit by 2008-09 and bring down the fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP. Government of India has accepted the recommendations of TFC. So far 19, States have furnished their FRBMA. On recommendations of the Monitoring Committee consolidation of Central loans has been done for 18 States.

(b) and (c) In pursuance to recommendations of TFC, Central Government has discontinued extension of Plan Loans to State Governments since 1st April, 2005. State Governments have been allowed to borrow against the loan component of their Central assistance in the form of Additional Open Market Borrowings (AOMB), within their overall borrowing ceilings. Fourteen States were allowed AOMB last year. Government of India also committed to help the fiscally weak States in case if they find difficulty in raising the market borrowings. No State has faced any difficulty so far in raising the market borrowings from the market. TFC award period starts from the year 2005-06.

(d) Does not arise.

Quota System for Medical Courses

3950. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

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

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country being run/funded by the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to include 27% quota for OBCs in post graduate courses like MD and MS;

(c) whether the total reservation in medical colleges are likely to go up from the existing 22.5% (for SC and ST students) to 49.5%;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the provision made for providing additional seats/financial assistance for 2006-07;

(e) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has opposed the reservation quota system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) At present there are 242 medical colleges in the country. The medical colleges being run/funded by the Centre are:

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2. Lady Harding Medical College, New Delhi.
3. JIPMER, Pondicherry.
4. Government Medical College, Chandigarh.
5. Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
6. Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh.
7. University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi.
8. Vardhman Mahabir Medical College, New Delhi.
9. PGIMER, Chandigarh.
10. NIMHANS, Bangalore.
11. Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute, Trivandrum.
12. AFMC, Pune.

In addition some of the Institutes/Hospitals also conduct specialized course.

(b) to (d) At present in the centrally governed institutions, reservation is provided for SC/ST only. The matter regarding provision of 27% reservation for OBC in the Central Medical Institutions is under consideration. With the increase in reservation, there is no provision for

providing additional admission seats for 2006-07. As such, increase in admission capacity of a particular institution can be considered only under the provisions of Section 10(A) of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations made thereunder.

(e) and (f) No reference opposing reservation quota system has been received by the Government from the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

Fraud in PG Entrance Test

3951. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the CBI has recently unearthed a racket involved in helping doctors who appeared in the PG entrance test of AIIMS as reported in *The Statesman* dated March 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the modus operandi thereof;

(c) whether in view of the fraud, all such entrance tests have been cancelled;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) On receipt of complaint regarding alleged malpractice in All India PG Entrance Examination 2006 the matter was handed over to CBI for investigation. The investigation conducted by CBI revealed that at Chennai Centre questions papers were taken out from the examination centre with the help of docu-pen got solved through professionals and correct answers were conveyed to the examinees through mobile phones. CBI also conducted analysis of answer sheets of the candidates qualified in MD/MS from all other centres as well as those of MDS candidates from all centres and reported that it did not reveal any predominant pattern to

indicate any palpable malpractice. On the basis of CBI report, it was decided to continue with counseling and admissions on the basis of AIPGME 2006 results except for the group of 20 students from Chennai Centre against whom CBI, ACB, Chennai has lodged FIR.

This decision has been taken subject to any further material which may be provided by CBI against specific candidates leading to disqualification of such candidates.

The procedure of conducting examination have been reviewed and steps like body search of students before they enter examination area, further randomization of question to avoid any duplication of question papers, supply of pens by the examining body, strengthening of security arrangement by deploying police/para-military forces at each center, appointment of carefully selected coordinators/invigilators are being contemplated for ensuring that there is no lacunae in conduct of examination.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of Inter-state Roads in Rajasthan

3952. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
 SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
 SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) whether a number of proposals relating to roads of Inter-State connecting Rajasthan pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when these proposals are pending;

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be given by the Government to these proposals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Survey of Cancer Cases

3953. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to detect the number of cancer cases in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the number of cancer cases registered during the last financial year;

(c) if not, whether the Government has any proposals to undertake such a survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the information collected by the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year and at any given point of time there are 2-2.5 million cancer patients in the country. As per information available with ICMR the estimated number of cancer patients for the year 2005 is approximately 8.72 lakhs.

(d) Health being a State Subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Under the schemes of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. The Central Govt. is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Govt. Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. In addition, the comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities including testing facilities in respective region/States are provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centre established under NCCP.

High Speed Networking and Digital Connectivity

3954. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of high speed networking and digital connectivity dedicated to research and education in the country and its potential for the development of research network infrastructure especially in the area of science and engineering research and education;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to support and encourage provision of fastest network speeds with upto 100 mbps as access bandwidth to meet the need for a dedicated, cutting-edge, high performance research and education network; and

(c) If so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department of Information Technology has initiated a project titled "GARUDA" to setup proof-of-concept phase of National Grid Computing. The mandate of this project is to carry out research and engineering of technologies, architecture, standards and applications in grid computing. The entire programme focuses on the applications like:

- (i) Bio-Informatics
- (ii) Computational Atmospheric Science
- (iii) Seismic Data Processing
- (iv) Disaster Management
- (v) Problems in Pure Sciences
- (vi) Accurate Three-Dimensional Medical Imaging
- (vii) Earthquake Engineering

A high speed communication network of 100 Mbps is envisaged which will connect 45 institutions in 17 cities across the country. ERNET (Education and Research Networking) is the Technical Service provider.

(b) and (c) The project GARUDA is configured on a proof-of-concept basis where the engineering, technology and policy issues are studied and resolved.

Opening of New Medical/Dental Colleges

3955. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Centre and the Medical Council of India to work out modalities for granting permission to those medical and dental colleges, applications of which were rejected last year;

(b) if so, whether the Government has implemented the said directive issued by the Supreme Court;

(c) the number of applications rejected last year, State-wise; and

(d) the number of medical and dental colleges likely to be set up in the country during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In academic year 2005-06, Medical Council of India did not recommend for grant of permission for establishment of some new medical colleges. Since the applicants were to be given an opportunity of personal hearing as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, before disapproving their proposal, their response was sought *viz-a-viz* MCI recommendations to enable the Central Government to pass appropriate order by 15.7.2005. Most of the applicants submitted their compliance on rectification of deficiencies pointed out in the inspection report of MCI. These compliance reports were forwarded to MCI for giving their inputs for enabling the Government to consider these cases so that the seats in colleges, meeting requirements of MCI norms are not lost to the students. However, MCI did not give their inputs on the ground that last date for giving their recommendations was already over on 15.6.05. In the absence of quality inputs from the MCI, Government could not take a final decision on these schemes by the stipulated date. Later on some of the applicants moved the Supreme Court of India and that Court in its last order dated 15.2.06 has directed as under:

"the matter shall be discussed to streamline the grant of permission to open medical/dental colleges or renewal thereon between the officers of the Medical Council of

India and the Central Government who shall also take into account the problem, if any, faced by the colleges, and the points agreed shall be informed on the next date of hearing."

Subsequent to the Court directions, there rounds of meetings were held between the Ministry and Medical Council of India. Consensus on the issue is yet to arrive at in the absence of appropriate inputs from MCI.

(d) Central Government is permitting establishment of new medical/dental colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Councils Act, 1956 and the Dentists Act, 1948. Grant of permission for setting up a new medical/dental college depends on fulfilling the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations of respective Councils, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of the respective Council thereon. Based on the facilities available, permission has been granted for establishment of new medical colleges during 2006-07, one at Pondicherry and other in Tamil Nadu. No new dental college has been permitted during 2006-07 so far.

Road Link between India and Pakistan

3956. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposals to create road connectivity from Gujarat to Pakistan to facilitate movement of passengers and goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sale of Coal Mines

3957. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to sell off the coal mines running in losses through tenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the process of selling of coal mines is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

BSNL Expenditure in Villages/Remote Areas

3958. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) the expenditure incurred by the BSNL for providing telecom facility in villages and remote areas of the country since October, 2000 and the current year;

(b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to reduce its investment for telephone services in rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether rural telephony is likely to be costly as a result of it; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of the year-wise expenditure incurred by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for providing telecom facilities in village/remote areas are as under:—

S.No.	Year	Amount (Rupees in Crores)
1.	October 2000-01 (Estimated figures)	2,666.50
2.	2001-02	7,946.17
3.	2002-03	4,395.23
4.	2003-04	2,739.35
5.	2004-05	2,268.56
6.	2005-06 (Provisional)	2,259.00
7.	2006-07 (Budget allocation)	2,589.52

(b) BSNL will continue to make necessary capital investment in rural areas.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Liver Transplantation

3959. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is lagging far behind from other advanced countries in the field of liver transplantation;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a special action plan to make the facility of liver transplantation accessible to the common people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir. As reported by ICMR, well developed facilities for liver transplantation are inadequate in India where at least two lakh people die annually from liver failure.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of consulting all stake holders before arriving at a plan for encouraging cadaver organ retrieval (that would include liver retrieval also).

[English]

Weather Satellite

3960. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain difficulties in getting clear imageries of the earth in cloudy weather conditions;

(b) if so, whether the ISRO proposes to develop any satellite for the benefit of the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Presently, Indian Remote Sensing Satellites use electro-optical imaging systems, which do not have the capability to penetrate the clouds. To overcome this, ISRO is developing a microwave satellite, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) for launch during 2007-08.

(c) RISAT will have a multi-mode, multi-polarisation C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload with cloud penetrating as well as night-and-day imaging capability. With this all-weather imaging capability, RISAT will provide information for a variety of applications such as crop acreage and production estimation of the agricultural crops grown during the cloudy kharif season and also for more effective monitoring of the natural disasters especially the floods and drought. RISAT is thus expected to enhance the benefits of remote sensing technology to the farmers.

(d) Does not arise.

Providing Direct Linkage of Coal

3961. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited have the right to provide direct linkage of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited have provided linkage to washery unit during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Linkages to Core sector consumers are accorded by the Government. The system of granting coal linkage to non-core sector by Coal India Limited was dispensed with from the year 2001.

(c) No, Sir. Coal washery units receive coal under an arrangement entered into between linked consumers and the washery operators.

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

Opening of Post Offices

3962. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices sanctioned and set up in the rural/urban areas of the country during the year 2005-2006, State-wise; and

(b) the places identified where the post offices are likely to be opened in the next few years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No new post offices have been sanctioned or set up in the rural and urban areas of the country during the year 2005-06. In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan for attaining financial self-sufficiency and consequently for rationalization of the postal network, targets for opening of new Post Offices are not being assigned since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening of a Post Office is found, it can only be opened by relocation of an existing post office, which is no longer justified on the Departmental norms in its present location.

Given the non-availability of Plan targets for expansion of postal network, whenever a proposal for setting up of a post office is received and found justified, it is considered for opening by the process of relocation.

[Translation]

Global Nuclear Power Partnership

3963. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has urged India to join the newly constituted "Global Nuclear Power Partnership";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this partnership is based on the development of the Fast Breeder Reactor;

(d) if so, whether US will be able to obtain the information of the Indian Fast Breeder Reactor in case India joins it; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the leakage of this sensitive information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There has been a general presentation on Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) from the US side.

(c) Fast Breeder Reactor development is one element of GNEP. There are other alternatives.

(d) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor and Fast Breeder Test Reactor will not be a part of GNEP.

(e) Does not arise.

Report of Mashelkar Committee

3964. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Dr. Mashelkar Committee was constituted to keep an eye on the spreading business of medicines in the country;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India decided to constitute an expert committee in January 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to examine all the aspects of the drug regulatory infrastructure in the country and the problem of spurious/substandard drugs in the country.

(b) Yes, the committee has submitted its report to the Government in November, 2003.

(c) The Committee made wide ranging recommendations for strengthening the drug regulatory system in the country including several amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules, creation of a Central Drug Authority, enhancement of the penalty provided for offences related to manufacture and sale of spurious drugs, under the D&C Act and Rules.

(d) A Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha for enhancement of penalties for drug related offences under the D&C Act based on Mashelkar Committee's recommendations and in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet.

A note for consideration of the Cabinet on formulation of a Central Drug Authority of India as recommended by the Mashelkar Committee has been prepared.

[English]

Prices of Coking Coal

3965. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of coking coal used as fuel for producing steel in the country are high as compared to those in Australia, USA, China and Brazil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for high prices in India; and

(d) the total production cost of steel increased in percentage terms as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The prices of coking coal used as fuel for production of steel in Australia, USA, China and Brazil are not available as Steel and Coal industries do not divulge the rate at which coking coal is sold. However, the prices of Indian coking coal with 18.5% ash is approximately Rs. 5023.00 per metric tonne whereas the average landed cost of Australian coking coal with 9.5% ash content is approximately Rs. 6730.00 per metric tonne at Indian Port. Price of imported coking coal could be higher on account of difference in intrinsic quality of coking coal, cost of freight, insurance etc.

[Translation]

Inclusion of New Castes in OBC List

3966. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to increase the

quota of reservation prescribed for OBCs after increasing the number of castes in the existing list of OBCs;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) TolaJ reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs should not exceed the limit of 50 percent while in the services under the Government of India it is already 49.5 percent and in some cases 50 percent.

Derogatory Depiction of Hindu Deities

3967. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the alleged use of pictures of Hindu deities by a wine company in Athens (Unan) in their advertisements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The poster was prepared by the manufacturer of Southern Comfort Whisky in the USA and displayed in a bar in Athens. Our Embassy in Greece had taken up this issue with the establishment concerned. The owner as well as the manufacturer of the product has withdrawn the poster. The manufacturer has also publicly apologised for bringing out the poster.

[English]

Norms/Guidelines for Pathological Labs

3968. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down norms/guidelines for the working of pathological labs in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to formulate the same now;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a large number of pathological labs have come up in Delhi in the absence of guidelines endangering the health of Delhiites; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to put a check on the working of sub-standard pathological labs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Health being a State Subject it is for the Government of Delhi to lay down norms/guidelines and also to regulate the functioning of such pathological laboratories.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

3969. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assistance of Rs.500/- is given to pregnant women belonging to BPL families under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme; and

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries in each State since its introduction, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Financial assistance ranging between Rs. 600/- to Rs. 700/- is being given to pregnant women belonging to BPL families under Janani Suraksha Yojana, which has been introduced in 2005 in modification of the National Maternity Benefit Scheme.

(b) Year-wise and State-wise number of beneficiaries under National Maternity Benefit Scheme based on expenditure reported by District Authorities, from the year 1995-96 to 2004-05 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement***National Maternity Benefit Scheme—State-wise Release of Fund***

S.No.	Name of the State	1995-96*	1996-97*	1997-98*	1998-99*	1999-00*	2000-01*	2001-02**	2002-03**	2003-04**	2004-05**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	203902	199399	378690	404039	336296	305021	195663	326571	293355	141773
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	NR	94	60	248	40	0	760	678	578
3.	Assam	12495	18532	14253	18303	26298	27085	37273	35599	8070	2039
4.	Bihar	30921	16920	211711	197322	141387	136085	69898	51032	20724	17518
5.	Jharkhand						23152	22800	19206	12169	3258
6.	Goa	NR	43	88	33	71	21	0	46	33	36
7.	Gujarat	NR	5721	12030	21460	19538	14335	11535	9251	12975	13200
8.	Haryana	5566	9778	12907	14147	6491	6264	7786	5330	17290	643
9.	Himachal Pradesh	295	2943	2478	2082	3492	3434	2824	1430	115	313
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4923	9067	7010	6508	5321	5403	3942	0	691	0
11.	Karnataka	17614	11730	16959	34670	40595	32777	65455	65090	44100	19402
12.	Kerala	167	12976	27576	35438	18344	15144	14895	14817	9587	4844
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5153	92660	152907	187046	90600	93961	57942	70846	36787	12626
14.	Chhattisgarh						20928	23052	12770	7027	5386
15.	Maharashtra	26	37953	47004	129219	89695	87225	36660	30242	13588	3030
16.	Manipur	1277	3705	2217	2510	1241	4571	5629	3890	2972	1743
17.	Meghalaya	122	1397	1649	2959	3164	4807	4807	1453	641	0
18.	Mizoram	500	1083	439	3022	2388	2905	3218	2517	3588	1455
19.	Nagaland	126	3071	831	673	2452	4757	3608	3032	1571	1142
20.	Orissa	1524	101843	105842	151406	132591	113094	38208	75412	35347	4952
21.	Punjab	2669	8616	6110	3742	3985	8197	1653	8373	6359	1167
22.	Rajasthan	NR	16821	50360	48693	11336	13789	20148	9589	5556	1993
23.	Sikkim	NR	198	NR	NR	551	2721	922	883	1311	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	50487	177019	163189	29485	35142	129272	84324	141439	106151	144259
25.	Tripura	6500	19500	19500	10156	9413	10300	6787	7119	4948	301
26.	Uttar Pradesh	297356	474371	236820	187924	225509	267957	14114	190525	75529	32669

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27.	Uttaranchal						10109	1912	7743	3112	829
28.	West Bengal	16245	57966	82839	90688	92640	112107	17157	65242	11044	2122
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NR	6	NR	NR	NR	NR	0	27	157	156
30.	Chandigarh	NR	NR	NR	NR	225	NR	0	0	75	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NR	134	NR	5	180	NR	2	526	104	184
32.	Daman & Diu	24	57	7	9	NR	NR	6	215	0	0
33.	NCT Delhi	NR	629	NR	NR	NR	NR	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	NR	14	3*2	NR	NR	NR	10	123	0	190
35.	Pondicherry	NR	559	1444	473	506	438	0	983	0	0
Total		65789	1282025	1557292	1582072	1299719	1456079	795842	1113976	735656	417809

NR: Not reported

* No of beneficiaries reported by Deptt. of Rural Development

**These estimates are based on the expenditure reported by the District Authority

Setting up of Regulatory Authority for Coal

3970. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set-up Regulatory Authority for coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any recommendation from the Observer Research Foundation Energy Security Conference in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of the question.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer given to part (c) of the question.

Implementation of NRHM

3971. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has employed financial professionals to monitor use of funds released to States under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(b) if so, the details of the number of professionals appointed by the Government, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds released under the NRHM to each State as on April 30, 2006;

(d) whether the Government has received reports that the implementation of the NRHM is at a slow pace; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the plans to be chalked out speedy implementation of the NRHM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has adopted a sector wide strategy and has subsumed the second phase of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. The Mission envisages augmentation of the programme and financial management capacities at the State and District levels. The Government has issued guidelines to the states to set up Programme Management Units in the state and District headquarters to improve the capacities for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the RCH-II and the NRHM.

The Government has facilitated Six States in establishing the Programme Management Units to serve as a pool of skilled professionals (MBA's, CA's, MCA's) to provide technical support to the State for implementing the programme. The number of professionals appointed by the six states for State and District Programme Management Units are as follows:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Professional appointed
1.	Rajasthan	89
2.	Madhya Pradesh	104
3.	Orissa	72
4.	Chattisgarh	41
5.	Jharkhand	48
6.	Bihar	41

(c) The State-wise details of funds released for NRHM activities upto April 30, 2006 is enclosed (Annexure).

(d) and (e) There is no report received about the slow pace of implementation of NRHM in the states. Since the launching of NRHM on 12.4.05, the various initiatives under the Mission have been operationalised in the states. The first year was the preparatory phase of the Mission and the pace of progress is as per the timelines under the Mission.

Statement

RCH-II Flexipool—Funds Released to the States/ UT's for the year 2005-06

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	GOI approval of PIPs for 2005-06	Amount Released to the States/ UT's during the year 2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.50	58.85
2.	Goa	1.50	1.06
3.	Gujarat	60.50	33.83
4.	Haryana	25.00	11.43
5.	Himachal Pradesh	7.50	5.01
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.00	6.05
7.	Karnataka	63.00	26.80
8.	Kerala	38.00	21.44
9.	Maharashtra	115.50	52.81
10.	Punjab	29.00	17.42
11.	Tamilnadu	74.00	61.39
12.	West Bengal	95.50	59.83
13.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.50	0.45
14.	Chandigarh	1.00	0.74
15.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.50	0.35
16.	Daman and Diu	0.50	0.23
17.	Delhi	16.50	7.27
18.	Lakashdweep	0.50	0.12
19.	Pondicherry	1.00	0.87
Sub Total		632.50	367.90

1	2	3	4
EAG States			
20.	Bihar	128.50	29.38
21.	Jharkhand	42.00	40.60
22.	Madhya Pradesh	93.50	66.20
23.	Chattisgarh	32.50	27.46
24.	Orissa	57.00	40.50
25.	Rajasthan	87.50	40.01
26.	Uttar Pradesh	257.50	169.73
27.	Uttranchal	13.00	7.46
Sub Total		711.50	421.32
NE States			
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.35	7.35
29.	Assam	116.05	64.92
30.	Manipur	11.93	7.43
31.	Meghalaya	9.00	4.50
32.	Mizoram	13.57	11.82
33.	Nagaland	10.36	6.61
34.	Sikkim	1.82	1.00
35.	Tripura	9.67	6.00
Sub Total		179.75	109.63
Grant Total		1523.75	898.84

Anaemia among Children

3972. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey of the anaemic children in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated percentage of children suffering from anaemia, State-wise;

(c) the age group of children which is suffering the most from it; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check high prevalence of anaemia amongst the children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Union Government has conducted the National Family Health Survey-II, (1998-99), which gives information among other parameters, about anaemia in children in the country. As per this survey, among children below the age of three years, 22.9% have mild anaemia, 45.9% have moderate anaemia and 5.4% have severe anaemia.

The State-wise prevalence of anemia is at statement-I enclosed.

Children below the age of three years are one of the most vulnerable sections of the population. The break up children affected by anaemia in the age groups of 6-11 months, 12-23 months and 24-35 months is at statement-II enclosed.

The Anemia Control Programme is one of the components of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme being implemented throughout the country. Under this programme, pregnant women and children below the age of five years are provided with iron and folic acid tablets for prophylaxis and treatment of anaemia. In addition, to improve the overall nutritional status including that of anaemia, all children upto the age of six years receive supplementary nutrition in anganwadis through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and all children in primary schools receive a nutritious hot meal through the Mid day Meal programme.

Statement-I

States	% Children with anemia 1	Percentage of Children With		
		Mild Anemia	Moderate Anaemia	Severe Anaemia
India	74.3	22.9	45.9	5.4
Delhi	69.0	22.2	42.9	3.9
Haryana	83.9	18.0	58.8	7.1
Himachal Pradesh	69.9	28.7	39.0	2.2
Jammu and Kashmir	71.1	29.1	38.5	3.5
Punjab	80.0	17.4	56.7	5.9
Rajasthan	82.3	20.1	52.7	9.5
Madhya Pradesh	75.0	22.0	48.1	4.9
Uttar Pradesh	73.9	19.4	47.8	6.7
Bihar	81.3	26.9	50.3	4.1
Orissa	72.3	26.2	43.2	2.9
West Bengal	78.3	26.9	46.3	5.2
Arunachal Pradesh	54.5	29.1	24.7	0.7
Assam	63.2	31.0	32.2	0.0
Manipur	45.2	22.6	21.2	0.9
Meghalaya	67.6	23.4	39.8	4.3
Mizoram	57.2	32.2	22.7	2.3
Nagaland	43.7	22.0	18.7	3.0
Sikkim	76.5	28.4	40.7	7.5
Goa	53.4	23.5	27.9	2.0
Gujarat	74.5	24.2	43.7	6.7
Maharashtra	76.0	24.1	47.4	4.4
Andhra Pradesh	72.3	23.0	44.9	4.4
Karnataka	70.6	19.6	43.3	7.6
Kerala	43.9	24.4	18.9	0.5
Tamil Nadu	69.0	21.9	40.2	6.9

Statement-II

States	% Children with anemia 1	Percentage of Children With		
		Mild Anemia	Moderate Anaemia	Severe Anaemia
India	74.3	22.9	45.9	5.4
6-11 Months	71.7	27.0	41.5	3.2
12-23 Months	77.7	22.0	49.4	6.3
24-35 Months	72.0	21.9	44.5	5.6

*[Translation]***Development of Vaccinations/Medicines**

3973. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to develop vaccinations and medicines to control various deadly diseases completely during the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the diseases for which vaccinations are being developed and the number of vaccinations developed so far; and

(d) the time by which vaccinations and medicines for all diseases are likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Many governmental and private agencies are involved in development of vaccines against various diseases. During the last three years 24 applications for different diseases have been submitted to the Drugs Controller of India. Phase I trials in normal volunteers are in process for these 24 new drug molecules. Phase II and III efficacy trials have to be conducted before drugs can be considered for marketing which may take 7-8 years. Department of Science and Technology under Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Supports Fund (PRDSF) programme extends

support to industry/institutional collaborative R&D projects on drug development including development of vaccines and new medicines, establishing the state-of-the-art research facilities for drug R&D in institutions and loan assistance for R&D projects to pharma industries. During 2005-06 the PRDSF programme has supported 37 R&D project with DST's contribution of Rs. 115.00 crores. The PRDSF programme has supported R&D projects on developing tetravalent vaccine on Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis virus (IEA), Hepatitis-B to pharma industries which are on-going. During 2006-07 a budget estimate (BE) of Rs. 130.00 crores is made for this programme.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is undertaking Phase I trials on HIV vaccines, measles aerosol vaccine (for alternate delivery of vaccine). Leishmania vaccine to protect against leishmiasis. ICMR in collaboration with CSIR and PGI Chandigarh have developed on oral cholera vaccine. Site preparation activates for a vaccine probe study to estimate the preventable burden of Hib meningitis and pneumonia is currently ongoing. Clinical studies on HPV vaccine is proposed to be initiated. Besides, Oral Rota Virus Vaccines by AIIMS, New Delhi, Recombinant Anthrax Vaccines by Panacea Biotech Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi and Oral Cholera Vaccine by Shantha Biotech Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad are under clinical evaluation.

*[English]***Research Works Carried out by CARD**

3974. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Applied Research and Development (CARD) has in-house R&D centre of Neyveli Lignite Corporation:

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

(c) the details of research works carried out by the CARD during 2005-06;

(d) whether the CARD provides analytical services to outside industries;

(e) if so, the criteria fixed in this regard; and

(f) the details of analytical services provided by the CARD during 2005-06 to such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Centre for Applied Research and Development (CARD) is an In-house R&D Centre of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and is recognized by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology since 1975.

(c) The following research works were carried out by CARD during 2005-06 under the Science and Technology Scheme funded by the Ministry of Coal:

1. Development of cost effective high performance Highways using fly ash composites;
2. Development of a process for production of activated carbon from Neyveli lignite;
3. Separation of marcasite from pulverized lignite using fluidized bed;
4. Studies on the use of bottom slag in crop production;
5. Studies on in-house recharge potential in the recharging area of Neyveli deep seated aquifer;
6. Study on Underground Coal Gasification and its utilization for power generation in lignite deposits of Rajasthan:

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) Neyveli Lignite Corporation is an ISO certified institution and the testings were carried out as per the Bureau of Indian Standards norms. For some of the testing, standards prescribed by the International Organisation for Standardisation, the Deutsches Institute

Fur Normung, the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Australian Standards were followed. The samples of coal, lignite, fly ash, humic acid and metals etc., were received from various firms.

(f) Mainly fuel characteristics such as proximate, ultimate analysis, calorific value, ash fusion and ash analysis were carried out and also humic acid content given in the product. M/s. STCMS, Neyveli/Tamilnadu, M/s. India Cements/Tamilnadu, M/s. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasarkode/Kerala and M/s. Supreme Renewable Energy, Pennadam/Tamilnadu are the firms, which have been sending samples for analysis.

Setting up of New Atomic Power Plants

3975. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new atomic power plants likely to be established in the near future, location-wise;

(b) the details of power generated by the plants functioning currently in the country;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the nuclear power generation in the coming years;

(d) if so, the plans/strategy chalked out in this regard including the participation of private sector;

(e) the quantity of atomic energy likely to be made available for use in medical and power sectors in the coming year;

(f) the time by which the atomic power plant with a capacity of 2000 MW is likely to be sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The details of nuclear power plants scheduled to start commercial operations in the next two years are:

Project/Location	Capacity in MWe	Scheduled date of commercial operation
Tarapur Atomic Power Project Unit 3, Maharashtra	540 - PHWR	2006
Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units 3 & 4, Karnataka	2 x 220 -PHWR	Unit 3 – March 2007 Unit 4 – Sept. 2007
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Projects Units 1 & 2, Tamil Nadu	2 x 1000 LWRs	Unit 1 – Dec. 2007 Unit 2 – Dec. 2008
Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units 5 & 6	2 x 220 PHWRs	Unit 5 – August 2007 Unit 6 – February 2008

[PHWRs - Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors; LWRs - Light Water Reactors]

In addition, a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is also under construction at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. This Unit is scheduled to start commercial operation in March 2011.

(b) Current generation of electricity from Nuclear Power Stations is about 50 million units per day.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) It has been planned to reach an installed nuclear power capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020. However, the recent initiatives of the Government may open up the possibility of setting up of additional capacity based on imports. The participation of private sector for setting up of additional nuclear power plants is also being considered. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

(e) The nuclear materials required for medical and other uses are distinct from the fuel for the power reactors.

(f) There is no proposal at present for setting 2000 MWe nuclear power plant in Madhya Pradesh. However, the sites in Madhya Pradesh will be considered for setting up a nuclear power plant at a later date depending on the nuclear power programme and other energy options available in the region. However, the Madhya Pradesh has a share of power from the nuclear power stations in operation in the Western Region and shall also have a share from those under construction/planned in the region.

Overloading of Trucks on National Highways

3976. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in *The Times of India* dated November 11, 2005 with regard to overloading of trucks on roads;

(b) if so, the details of the present instructions with regard to overloading on National Highways;

(c) whether these instructions are being followed;

(d) if so, the details of administrative arrangements for implementation;

(e) if not, the names of the States which are not following the instructions; and

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

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

(b) There are provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to direct a vehicle suspected of being overloaded to be weighed. If found overloaded, the excess load is to

be offloaded before allowing the vehicle to proceed further, besides penalties for such overloading.

(c) to (f) Enforcement of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 comes under the purview of the State Governments. Central Government has been reiterating the legislative intent of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 regarding control of overloading to the States as and when violations are reported. The order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 9.11.2005 has been circulated to the States for strict compliance.

New Shipping Agreement with Pakistan

3977. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have reached an understanding to sign a new shipping agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to identify the problems in transportation of goods between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, India had signed a Shipping Protocol with Pakistan in 1975 which *inter alia* restricts lifting of cargo between the two countries by third country vessels as well as lifting of third country Cargo by Indian and Pakistani flag vessels from each others' ports. This Protocol was reviewed by both sides and initiated at official level. After approval of both Governments the revised Protocol will come into force.

(c) In addition, certain issues relating to transportation of goods through railways have been identified for further discussion.

Central Grant for Agricultural Research

3978. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Agriculture has requested approval of one time Central Grant of Rs. 1000 crores to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) to augment the infrastructure for agricultural research in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to accord its approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The demand for one time Catch up Grant received in April, 2006, pertained mainly to research and infrastructural support to DARE/ICAR. The requirement of funds for research/infrastructure facilities of ICAR institutes has already been taken care of while approving the proposals during Xth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the past performance and availability of resources. Year-wise utilization trend of DARE indicates less than full utilization of funds. Further, additional need based demands have been considered and supported favourably. Hence, the Catch up grant referred was not supported by the Planning Commission.

Progress of Construction Work on NH-60

3979. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work in the construction of National Highway-60 from Kharagpur to Ranigunj Section in West Bengal during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government has decided to take up the project of four-laning of this road; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During last two years, on Kharagpur to Ranigunj Section of National Highway-60 development works to the tune of Rs. 14.03 crore has been sanctioned, which includes widening to 2 lane in a length of about 20 km at a cost of Rs. 12.60 crore and widening/reconstruction of 13 culverts costing Rs. 1.43 crore. The work of widening in a length aggregating to about 10 km has been completed and in balance length it is in progress. Barring four culverts which are in advanced stage of completion all the culverts are widened/reconstructed. Besides one improvement of riding quality work, sanctioned during 2003-04, covering a length of 12 km and costing Rs. 3.41 crore has been completed. The works of periodical renewal has been carried out in stretches aggregating to a length of 28.5 km costing Rs. 2.76 crore, during the same period.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Joint Working Group In Infrastructure Sharing

3980. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has set up a joint working group to deal with issues regarding infrastructure sharing which enables two or more competing cellular operators to emit radio signals from the same tower,

(b) if so, whether this group has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(d) the extent to which these recommendations are likely to help in clearing networking jam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee was set up for formulating a project for infrastructure sharing in Delhi by mobile operators. The Committee has submitted its preliminary report for Delhi in April 2006.

(c) The Committee has recommended a target of total 1800 shared cell sites for Delhi in phase-wise manner by September 2007. These include existing sites of various operators being made available for sharing as well as greenfield sites.

(d) The measures suggested will enable the operators to put in place more towers, thereby improving the quality of service through better coverage.

Construction of Post Office Buildings In Orissa

3981. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct some post office buildings in the tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of buildings proposed to be constructed;

(c) the cost fixed for each building; and

(d) the present status of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Udit Nagar HO, Sundargarh District, Orissa.

(b) One.

(c) The cost fixed is Rs. 72,80,000/-

(d) 60% of construction has been completed as on 31.03.2006.

[Translation]

Assessment of Programmes of Nehru Yuva Kendras

3982. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the programmes being undertaken by the Nehru Yuva Kendras alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the programmes being undertaken by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKER AIYAR): (a) The details of Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country, State-wise and location-wise are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The programmes being undertaken by Nehru Yuva Kendras, along with the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years, is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Regular monitoring and periodic inspections are carried out by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). An evaluation study of Nehru Yuva Kendras was sponsored by Planning Commission in 2002. The details of their observations are given in Statement-III enclosed.

Statement*Details of Nehru Yuva Kendras, State-wise and Location-wise*

Sl.No.	Name of State	NVK State-wise and Location-wise	Total No. of NYKs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur, Vijaywada, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Guntur, Kakinada (East Godavari), Karim Nagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mehbubnagar, Nizamabad, Medak (Siddipet), Srikakulam, Vishakhapatnam, Adilabad, Vizianagaram, Nellore, Warangal, Hyderabad, Nalgonda, West Godavari (Ellure), Prakasham (Ongole), Ranga Reddy.	23
2.	Assam	Dibrugarh, Diphu (Karbi Anglong), Dhubri, Kamrup (Maligaon), North Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Cachar (Silchar), Tezpur (Sonitpur), Haflong (N C Hills), Karimganj, Barpeta, Kokrajhar, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Nalbari, Golaghat, Dhemaji, Darrang (Mangaldoi), Hailakandi, Golaghat, Morigaon, Bongaigaon Tinsukia.	23
3.	Bihar	Araria, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur (Arrah), Buxar, Darbhanga, East Champaran (Motihari), Gaya, Gopalganj, Jamui, Jehanabad, Kaimoor (Bhabua), Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Patna, Purnia, Rohtas (Sasaram), Saharsa, Samastipur Saran (Chapra), Sitamarhi, Siwan, Vaishali (Hajipur), West Champaran (Bettiah)	34
4.	Gujarat	Bharuch, Nadiad (Kheda), Kutch (Bhuj), Godhra, Sabarkantha (Himmat Nagar), Junagarh, Mehsana, Surendra Nagar, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Valsad, Surat, Gandhi Nagar, Ahmedabad, Baroda (Chhota Udaipur), Dangs, Amreli, Palanpur, Rajkot.	19
5.	Haryana	Ambala, Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Karnal, Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Rohtak, Faridabad, Sonapat, Jind, Hiesar Mahendergarh (Narnaul), Rewari, Yamuna Nagar, Kaithal, Panipat.	16
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur, Chamba, Dharamsala (Kangra), Hamirpur, Kinnaur, Kullu, Keylong (Lahoul Spti), Mandi, Nahan (Simour), Solan, Shimla, Una.	12
7.	Jammu and Karhmir	Kathua, Anantnag, Bidgam, Baramulla, Doda, Jammu, Kupawara, Kargil, Leh (Ladakh), Pulwama, Poonch, Rajouri, Sri Nagar, Udhampur.	14
8.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Belgaum, Bidar, Chikmagalur, Gulbarga, Hassan, Karwar, Kodagu (Madikeri) Kolar, Mangalore, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Tumkur, Dhawad, Chitradurga (Devengere), Bellary, Shimoga, Bangalore (Rural), Bangalore (Urban)	20

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	Alleppey, Kannur, Thodupuzha (Iddukki), Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palghat, Pathanamthita, Trivandrum, Trichur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Kasargod, Wynad, Quilon.	14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat, Betul, Bhind, Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior, Harda, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Katni, Khandwa, Khargaon, Mandala, Mandisor, Morena, Narsinghpur, Panna, Raisen, Rajgarh, (Balora), Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Sehore, Seoni Shahdol, Shajpur, Shivpuri, Sidhi Tikamgarh, Ujjain, Vidisha.	40
11.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Alibag, (Raigad), Bhandara, Kolhapur, Sholapur, Thane, Jalgaon, Nanded, Yavatmal, Amravati, Gadchiroli Jalna, Buldhana, Nagpur, Mumbai (Kal), Satara, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Dhule, Ratnagiri, Latur, Pune, Sindhudurg, Akola, Chandrapur, Wardha, Beed, Sangli.	30
12.	Manipur	Churachandpur, Imphal, Senapati, (Kongpokpi) Tamenglong, Ukhrul, Thoubal, Chandel, Bishanpur, Senapati-II	9
13.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills (Jowai), West Garo Hills (Tura), East Khasi Hills (Shillong), East Garo, Hills (William Nagar), West Khasi Hills (Nongstoin).	5
14.	Nagaland	Kohima, Mokokchung, Zunheboto, Tuensang, Mon, Workha, Phek.	7
15.	Orissa	Balasore, Balangir, Mayurbhanj (Baripada), Behrampur (Ganjam), Kalahandi (Bhawani Patna), Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Pulbani, Puri, Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Cuttack, Naupada, Khurda (Bhubneshwar), Kendrapara	16
16.	Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur, Mansa, Fatehgarh Sahib	14
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Banswara, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jalore, Sawai Madhopur, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur, Alwar, Kota, Pali, Dhoulpur, Nagaur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Jhalawar, Sri Ganganagar, Rajsamand, Baran, Dausa.	30
18.	Sikkim	East Sikkim (Gangtok), North Sikkim (Mangan) West Sikkim (Gayzing), South Sikkim (Namchi).	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Cuddalore (South Arcot), Dharmapuri Madurai, Pudukottai, Salem, Sivaganga, Tiruchirappalli Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Nilgiri (Udagmandalam), Ooty, Vellore, Kamrajur (Virudunagar), Kanya Kumari (Nagercoil), Chengalpet (MGR), Erode (Periyar), Dindigul (Anna) Ramanathapuram, Chidambarnar (Tuticorin), Chennai (Rural) Nagapatnam, Thiruvannamali, Villupuram, Tiruvallur, Theni, Tiruvarur, Namakkal, Karur, Perambalur.	29

1	2	3	4
20.	Tripura	Agartala (West Tripura), Dharam Nagar (North Tripura), Udaipur (South Tripura)	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Azamgarh, Badaun, Bahraich, Ballia, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Bijnor, Bulandsahar, Amethi, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Farukhabad. Fatehpur, Firozabad, Ghaziabad, Ghazipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun (Orai), Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur Dehat Kanpur Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mau, Meerut, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Partappgarh, Pilibhit, Rai Bareilly, Rampur, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Siddharth Nagar, Sitapur, Sonabhadra, Sultanpur, Unnao, Varanasi.	55
22.	West Bengal	Barsat (24 Parganas North), Burdwan, Murshidabad, Darjeeling, Baruipur (24 Pargana South), Jalpaguri, Midnapore, Purulia, Calcutta, Cooch Behar, Uttar Dinajpur Bankura, Birbhum, Hoogly, Nadia, Howrah, Malda, Durgapur (Burdwan - II), Diamond Harbour (24 S Parg), Tamluk (Midnapore-II), Calcutta (South), Raghunathpur (Purulia).	22
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	Siang (Along), Lower Subansiri (Ziro), Upper Subansiri (Daporijo), Lohit (Tezu).	4
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	Nicobar, Port Blair, Kamotra, Campbell Bay, Mayabander (Rangat), Diglipur.	6
25.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh.	1
26.	Delhi	Alipur, Mehrauli, Nangloi.	3
27.	Goa	North Goa, Panaji, South Goa (Margaon).	3
28.	Lakshdweep	Kavarati.	1
29.	Pondicherry	Karaikal, Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam.	4
30.	Mizoram	Alzwal, Lungeli, Ghhimutulpuri (Saiha).	3
31.	Dadra Nagar and Haveli	Sivvassa.	1
32.	Chhatisgarh	Bilaspur, Champa, Durg, Kanker (Bastar), Raigarh, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja.	8
33.	Jharkhand	Bokaro, Chatra, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur), Garwah, Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Palamau (Daltonganj), Ranchi, Sahebganj, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa).	16
34.	Uttaranchal	Almora, Chamoli, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Kashi.	9
35.	Daman and Diu	Daman, Diu	2
Total			500

Statement II

Details of Programmes being undertaken by Nehru Yuva Kendras along with the funds allocated for the purpose during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of Programme	Budget Allocated during three years (in Rupees)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Regular Programmes				
1.	Youth Club Development Programme	12197040	12126700	14641875
2.	Vocational Training Programme	15000000	25000000	15000000
3.	Training in Self Employment Projects	0	0	13451364
4.	Awareness Campaign	6000000	6000000	7383150
5.	Work Camps	12197040	12197040	14641875
6.	Sports Promotion Programme	7500000	7500000	13000000
7.	Workshops & Seminars	2000000	2000000	0
8.	Cultural Programmes	6000000	6000000	10000000
9.	Celebration of National/ International Days/Weeks	6500000	6500000	6500000
10.	Adventure Promotion Programme	6000000	6000000	6000000
11.	Local Need Based Programme	10000000	10000000	10000000
12.	District Youth Convention	0	0	3000000
<i>Special Programmes undertaken with the financial support of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports</i>				
1.	Trekking Programme at Munnar	0	330000	0
2.	Adventure Training Programme (Village Tourism)	0	675000	0
3.	Vocational Training Project	0	74561683	26299875
4.	Work Camps in Tsunami affected districts	0	17062500	0
5.	Counseling Centers and follow up activities in earth quake and tsunami districts	0	16542000	0

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Rural Sport Programme for NE Region Kendras	0	0	10440000
7.	Rural Sports Tournament in Madhya Pradesh	0	0	6600000
8.	Thematic National Intergration Camps	0	3176000	0
9.	NIC and Inter state Youth Exchange Programmes	0	0	5880000
10.	NICs for Tharu Tribes	0	1001250	0
11.	Seminar for Model Village	0	1140000	0
12.	NIC for Dandi Yatra	0	8945750	0
13.	Youth Development Center (YDC)	5340000	12210000	6600000
14.	National Service Volunteers (NSV)	50529300	65560000	62550000
15.	Rural Sports Clubs (RSC)	4725000	5310000	10180900
16.	Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs (AOYC)	4715000	7315000	3845476
17.	Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs (FAYC)	850000	20590000	4655000
18.	Rural Information Technology Youth Development Center (RITYDC)	11640000	2160000	10080000
19.	Rashtriya Sadbhavna Yojna (RSY)	0	57924800	27486150
<i>Special Programmes undertaken with the financial support other Ministries/National & International Agencies</i>				
20.	Cultural Exchange Programme	0	0	0
21.	Tribal Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	4553600	1500000	0
22.	Adolescent Empowerment Programme	0	0	11474023
23.	Youth Participation in prevention of Traffiking and HIV/AIDS	0	0	25568813
24.	Youth Combating Child Domestic Work	0	4392993	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Red Ribbon Express	0	75000000	0
26.	RRRLF	0	0	0
27.	Tobacco Cessation Activities	0	0	0
28.	Awareness Generation on Forests and Tree	0	0	1300000
29.	Prevention of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy	0	1450240	0
30.	Sensitisation workshop on Disaster Management	0	0	1206000
31.	Cash for Work in South Andaman	0	0	0

Statement II

Findings of Evaluation of NYKs conducted by independent agencies sponsored by Planning Commission in 2002

- (i) Most of the targeted goals of the NYKs have been achieved.
- (ii) There was very good coordination among the central, regional and district offices of the Sangathan.
- (iii) The programmes and activities of NYKs are effectively implemented to the advantage of the non-student rural youths,
- (iv) The Youth Clubs attached to NYKs in the four States covered by the study have played a significant role in creation of assets in villages in the area of their operation.
- (v) The work of Youth Clubs in village development is satisfactory in the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra but poor in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- (vi) Nehru Yuva Kendras have created a very good impact on the rural youth to a great extent. The youth and the public were the real beneficiaries of the NYK Scheme.
- (vii) The review of programmes and activities of Nehru Yuva Kendras shows that employment

promotion, income generation, enterprise creation and village development programmes were given top priority in all the five states covered by the study.

- (viii) The study of achievements of NYKs in providing training to non-student youth for inducting necessary skills to take up leadership in the field of community development shows that the NYKs have made a significant contribution in the field of youth empowerment.
- (ix) Better administrative, financial and infrastructural support is required to be provided to NYKS.
- (x) It is reported that 96% of respondents have been benefited by NYK programmes. Awareness programmes conducted by NYKs in 92% of the selected villages have made significant positive changes in the community.

[English]

Construction of National Highways in Orissa

3983. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of National Highways in Orissa is progressing as planned;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the length of Highways constructed in terms of kilometers during the last three years in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There have been some delays in completion of some projects of widening to 4-lanes by National Highway Authority of India due to problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, poor performance of some contractors etc. The award of some works of widening to 2-lanes/improvement of riding quality on National Highway No.-215 are held up due to poor response from contractors.

(d) In the last three years, a total length of about 545 kilometers of National Highways entrusted to the State Government of Orissa has been improved by widening to 2-lanes/strengthening/improvement of riding quality. In addition, a total length of 233.70 kilometers of National Highways has been widened to 4-lanes by National Highway Authority of India under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) during the last three years in Orissa.

Use of Hindi in Embassies/Consulates Abroad

3984. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates wherein cent percent, 75 percent, 50 percent and 25 percent work is being done in Hindi, country-wise;

(b) the names of the countries where sufficient arrangements for interpreters, stenographers, typists and typewriters/computers have been made and the name of countries where these facilities have not been provided; and

(c) the existing position of libraries and availability of original reference books in Hindi for the promotion of the language abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) Our Missions abroad have to deal mainly with the local Governments, hence most of the work is being done in the official language of the country concerned by them. However, within the Missions most of the staff can speak and understand Hindi. Hindi is used for conversation within the Missions, in dealing with Hindi speaking PIOs/NRI's and also during official meetings within the Missions. However, it is difficult to quantify the work done in Hindi by the Missions.

There are 15 Missions with facilities for Hindi interpreters. Hindi stenographers/typists are available in 23 Missions. Hindi typewriters and Hindi software for computers have been provided in 40 Missions. Details are placed on the table of the House.

Books on Hindi language, literature, Indian history, art, culture, Hindi-English, English-Hindi dictionaries and books for learning Hindi are sent to Indian Missions abroad every year by the Ministry for their libraries. In addition, Missions' requests for Hindi books and teaching aid material from time to time are met on priority basis by the Ministry. Consequently, most Missions have well maintained libraries with Hindi books.

Statement

Sl.No.	EOI/HCI/CGI*	Facilities to work in Hindi		
		Interpreter	Steno./Typist	Typewriter/Comp.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Port Louis			Yes
2.	Kabul			
3.	Gaborone			
4.	Ulaanbaatar	Yes		Yes

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Pyongyang			
6.	Herat			
7.	Riyadh			
8.	Athens			
9.	Dar-es-Salaam			
10.	Chicago			
11.	Zanzibar			
12.	Munich			
13.	Abidjan			
14.	Santiago			
15.	Hamburg			
16.	Dublin			
17.	Stockholm			
18.	Georgetown		Yes	Yes
19.	Rome			
20.	Dakar			
21.	Havana			
22.	Kingston			
23.	Panama City			
24.	Lima	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	New York			
26.	Wellington			
27.	Sydney			
28.	Suva			Yes
29.	Kuala Lumpur			
30.	Jalalabad			
31.	Kandhar			
32.	Paramaribo	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Thimphu			Yes

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Baku		Yes	Yes
35.	Phnom Penh			Yes
36.	Bangkok			
37.	Antananarivo			
38.	Belgrade			
39.	Medan			
40.	Windhoek			
41.	Ashgabat			
42.	Bucharest			
43.	Algiers			
44.	Bishkek			Yes
45.	St. Petersburg	Yes	Yes	Yes
46.	Rabat			Yes
47.	Yerevan			
48.	Maputo			
49.	Khartoum			
50.	Kuwait			
51.	Harare			
52.	Almaty			
53.	Brunei		Yes	Yes
54.	Zagreb			
55.	Mombasa			Yes
56.	Sana'a			
57.	Nairobi			
58.	Beijing	Yes	Yes	Yes
59.	Port Moresby			
60.	Birgunj			
61.	Yangon	Yes	Yes	Yes

1	2	3	4	5
62.	Bogota			
63.	The Hague			Yes
64.	Port of Spain			Yes
65.	Ottawa	Yes		
66.	Lisbon			
67.	Kampala			Yes
68.	Ankara			Yes
69.	Copenhagen			Yes
70.	Birmingham			
71.	Bratislava			
72.	Kyiv			Yes
73.	Lusaka			Yes
74.	Tunis			
75.	Vladivostok			Yes
76.	Washington (DC)	Yes	Yes	
77.	Houston			
78.	London	Yes	Yes	Yes
79.	Brussels			
80.	Buenos Aires			
81.	Vienna			
82.	Ramallah City			
83.	Helsinki		Yes	Yes
84.	Sofia	Yes	Yes	Yes
85.	Minsk		Yes	Yes
86.	Tashkent			Yes
87.	Kathmandu		Yes	Yes
88.	Muscat			Yes
89.	Mandalay			
90.	Tokyo			

1	2	3	4	5
91.	Amman			
92.	Bahrain	Yes		
93.	Beirut			
94.	Canberra		Yes	Yes
95.	Budapest			
96.	Hanoi			
97.	Cairo			
98.	Kandy			
99.	Warsaw			
100.	Accra		Yes	
101.	Frankfurt			
102.	Geneva			
103.	Dhaka		Yes	Yes
104.	Brasilia			
105.	Berne	Yes	Yes	
106.	Johannesburg			
107.	Male			
108.	Caracas			
109.	Saint Denis			
110.	Lao PDR			
111.	Addis Ababa			
112.	Luanda		Yes	
113.	Berlin			Yes
114.	Lagos			Yes
115.	Doha			
116.	Prague			
117.	Shanghai			
118.	Colombo			Yes
119.	Singapore			
120.	Dushanbe	Yes		
121.	Edinburgh	Yes		

1	2	3	4	5
122.	Tel Aviv			
123.	Jeddah			
124.	Tripoli		Yes	Yes
125.	Baghdad			
126.	Osaka-Kobe			
127.	Milan			Yes
128.	Sao Paulo		Yes	
129.	Dubai			
130.	Damascus			Yes
131.	Abu Dhabi		Yes	Yes
132.	Pretoria	Yes	Yes	Yes
133.	Nicosia			
Total		15	23	40

*EOI—Embassy of India

*HCI—High Commission of India

*CGI—Consulate General of India.

Passport Offices in Rented Buildings

3985. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passport offices in the country are functioning in rented buildings.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rental outgo from each of these passport offices during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct its own buildings for passport offices; and

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

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

(b) At present, there are 30 Passport Offices in the country out of which 17 are functioning from rented buildings. The details of rentals paid during the last three years are as follows:

S.No	Passport Offices	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bareilly	2,16,296	2,16,296	2,16,296
2.	Bangalore	35,21,608	35,23,473	35,42,219
3.	Bhubaneswar	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,76,000
4.	Bhopal	1,59,168	1,59,168	1,59,168

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Guwahati	4,61,460	4,61,460	4,61,460
6.	Jalandhar	8,82,000	8,82,000	8,82,000
7.	Jammu	3,70,260	4,03,920	4,03,920
8.	Jaipur	31,50,000	31,50,000	31,50,000
9.	Lucknow	3,38,430	3,38,430	3,38,430
10.	Mumbai	1,59,96,000	1,59,96,000	1,59,96,000
11.	Pune	11,85,264	17,71,056	17,71,056
12.	Ranchi	3,47,724	3,47,724	3,47,724
13.	Tiruchirapally	6,10,380	6,10,378	6,10,378
14.	Thiruvananthapuram	6,84,268	6,31,632	6,31,632
15.	Thane	26,71,196	26,48,471	29,56,163
16.	Vishakhapatnam	4,43,400	4,43,400	4,61,426
17.	Surat	11,77,176	11,77,176	11,77,176

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Construction of new Passport buildings is in progress in Lucknow, Bangalore and Jaipur. The Ministry has recently procured a plot of land for construction of its own premises in Mumbai. In Bhubaneshwar preliminary work to start construction of Passport Office has begun. In Guwahati, the mutation of the land in Ministry's name is expected to be completed shortly. Jalandhar has submitted a proposal for procurement of land on auction basis. In Vizag, a plot of land has already been purchased and in Bareilly, built up property has been acquired from local Government agency. Efforts are being made to acquire/purchase properties for the remaining Passport Offices.

Bilateral Ties with Bangladesh

3986. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Prime Minister visited India in the month of March, 2006;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed between both the countries;

(c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether issues viz., cross-border terrorism, fire exchanges along borders, restoration of rail traffic etc. also came up during talks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During the visit, both countries discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions to all issues including security, trade and sharing of river water.

(c) and (d) Two Agreements pertaining to (i) the Revised Trade agreement and (ii) the Agreement for

Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters were signed. While the revised trade agreement is expected to provide a framework for expansion of bilateral trade, the other agreement signals the joint determination of the two Governments to combat drug trafficking.

(e) and (f) The issues of cross-border terrorism, fire exchanges along border and restoration of rail traffic came up during talks. It was agreed that meetings of the bilateral institutional mechanisms such as the Joint Economic Commission, the Joint Boundary Working Groups, the Joint Rivers Commission and the Home Secretary-level talks would be held more frequently to ensure movement in a positive direction and their outcome monitored by the political leadership on a continuous basis.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges Over National Highways

3987. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the bridges constructed on various national highways in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) The State-wise number of bridges proposed to be constructed during the current financial year and the funds likely to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The number of bridges constructed on various National Highways in the country during each of last three years and the current year, including those in Uttar Pradesh are at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The State-wise number of bridges proposed to be constructed during the current financial year i.e. 2006-07 are at Statement-II enclosed. Funds are allocated State-wise for the development of National Highways for all the schemes including construction of bridges. No separate allocation of funds is made for construction of bridges. The State-wise allocation of funds for development of National Highways under all the schemes during the current financial year i.e. 2006-07 are also at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Number of Bridges Constructed on National Highways in the Country and Uttar Pradesh

	No. of Bridges constructed during			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Upto April 2006)
The entire country	123	105	99	0
Uttar Pradesh	2	3	0	0

Statement II

Statewise Bridges proposed to be Constructed and Allocation of Funds during 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Bridges proposed to be constructed during current financial year 2006-2007	Allocation of funds during 2006-07 under all the schemes of NH(O) (in Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	80
2.	Assam	1	65

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	4	70
4.	Chhattisgarh	10	50
5.	Gujarat	7	60
6.	Haryana	7	50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5	45
8.	Jharkhand	5	40
9.	Karnataka	20	75
10.	Kerala	4	55
11.	Madhya Pradesh	6	80
12.	Maharashtra	5	105
13.	Manipur	3	15
14.	Meghalaya	4	26
15.	Mizoram	3	20
16.	Orissa	1	65
17.	Punjab	2	50
18.	Tamil Nadu	8	85
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5	135
20.	Uttaranchal	3	30
21.	West Bengal	1	55
22.	BRO	20	584
23.	NHAI	41	8645.45

E-cards to Patients

3988. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a joint force to explore the possibility of issuing e-cards to patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the patients therefrom; and

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Government to promote tele-medicine?

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

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has set up a National Task Force

on Telemedicine in the year 2005. Electronic Patient Record is one of the 'terms of reference (TOR) identified' under the same. Possibility of electronic health card for individual family is one of the sub-agenda under this TOR.

(c) The health record of the individual/family over the life time will be securely preserved and made available to healthcare professionals/health researchers/administrators/health policy makers and insurance agencies. Thus, all the above stake holders will be able to access the relevant portion of the information related to health of the individual and family.

(d) (i) Both Indian Space Research Organization and Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication & IT have been facilitating deployment of telemedicine nodes across the country in collaboration with various state governments.

(ii) Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India, has been funding research development projects to various scientific agencies and academic medical and engineering institutes to develop indigenous technology and service modules. It has addressed two important issues relating to telemedicine, which have wider ramifications for promotion of telemedicine in the country *i.e.* standardization and IT infrastructure for Health.

(iii) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has set up a National Task Force for Telemedicine, which has been given the mandate to brain storm several issues (identified as "Terms of Reference") relating to telemedicine and to submit reports/recommendations later, to become "Policy Document" which will facilitate telemedicine practice in the country.

(iv) Linkage of all 25 Regional Cancer Centers across the country through telemedicine network is under development.

(v) Towards Disease Surveillance across the country by networking all the district hospitals with medical colleges through satellite based broadband network (integrated Disease Surveillance Project) is under implementation phase.

(vi) Towards capacity building and developing R&D infrastructure in the field of telemedicine and e-health, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow is setting up a School of Telemedicine and e-health with funding support from Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Modernisation of Medical Colleges

3989. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Gujrat for the modernization of Medical Colleges 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 FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A project proposal for strengthening the Government Medical/Dental Colleges with an estimated cost of Rs. 19971.64 lakh for seeking World Bank assistance was received from Government of Gujarat. The proposal was examined in consultation with Department of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission and, World Bank. The proposal was not found in line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the Health Sector in India. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 16.3.06 has accorded in principle approval for upgradation of one Medical Institute in the State of Gujarat under PMSSY.

Indo-US Agreement on HIV/AIDS

3990. SHRI VJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the US had signed an agreement during the recent visit of the US President to India to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by exploring all possible avenues including expanding drug approval process at the US FDA and strengthening bilateral cooperation;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) if so, whether a joint Indo-US Corporate fund has been set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether latest figures show that 5.21 million adults in India are living with HIV which was 5.13 in 2004; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to implement the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) and (f) During the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh to the United States of America in July, 2005, a joint statement was issued that committed the two countries to combat HIV/AIDS at the global level. As a result of this commitment, Indian Pharmaceutical companies have since received PDA approval for 14 generic drugs. Further, in accordance with the agreement, a fund has been established through ICICI Bank and with GIVE Foundation. All implementation structures for this fund are being worked out. The Indo-US Corporate Fund will receive contributions from both Indian and US businesses. To date, pledges amounting to over one million dollars has been made by six companies.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is true that there are 5.21 million HIV infections estimated in the country as per HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2005.

Eye Banks

3991. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Eye Banks are ill-equipped to preserve eyes;

(b) if so, the estimated number of eyes donated every year and the number out of them that go waste; and

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

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

(b) During the period January-December, 2005, the total number of eyes collected all over India is about 26,000. No eye is wasted as the eyes which are not suitable for surgery are used for Research and Training.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Oncology Wing of G.R. Medical College

3992. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed any proposal for the upgradation of Oncology wing of G.R. Medical College, Gwalior;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which sanction is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Radiotherapy Development Programme headed by Director General of Health Services, an amount of Rs. 3.00 crore has already been released to G.R. Medical College, Gwalior during the year 2005-06 for Development of Oncology wing in the hospital.

Dropsy Cases

3993. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of Dropsy have come to light during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) 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) to (c) The information is being collected from States and Union Territories and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Maintenance of Cath Lab**

3994. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of days the Cath lab in Safdarjung Hospital, RML and AIIMS have remained out of order causing inconvenience to the patients during the last one year and the reasons therefor;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the authorities responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure an efficient and uninterrupted medical service to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Required information in respect of the three Hospitals is as under:

- (i) Safdarjung Hospital—During last one year CATH lab. has remained out of order for 83 days due to major snags.
- (ii) Dr. R.M.L. Hospital—Cath lab. has not been functional since 22.06.2005 and is beyond repair.
- (iii) A.I.I.M.S—Number of days for which the CATH Lab. in AIIMS remained out of order during last one year is under:

CATH Lab-1 - 2 days

CATH Lab-2 - 8 days

CATH Lab-3 - 14 days

CATH Lab-4 - Nil

CATH Lab-5 - one day

CATH Lab-6 - 3 days.

Neuro Cath Lab-1 – Non functional since August, 2005 and is beyond repair.

Neuro Cath Lab-2 – 10 days

(b) and (c) No specific inquiry in regard to non-functioning of CATH Labs in these hospitals/institutions has been ordered.

(d) CATH Labs in these hospitals are continuously serviced through Annual Maintenance Contracts.

*[Translation]***Radiation by Cellular Transmission Towers**

3995. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether Mumbai High Court has directed the Government to set up a Committee so as to lay down the guidelines relating to installation and study of radiation caused by the Cellular transmission towers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up the said Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Committee thereon; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken on the recommendations made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai in Writ Petition No. 2112 of 2004 on Jeath Hazard due to mobile towers and other issues, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has set up a Committee on 3rd March 2000 under the Chairmanship of Director General (DG), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with a mandate to submit report within three months. The constitution of Committee is as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|---|----------|
| (i) | Director General
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Director General of Health Services
(DGHS) or his nominee | - | Member |
| (iii) | Head of Neurosurgery Department
All India Institute of Medical Sciences
(AIIMS) or his nominee | - | Member |
| (iv) | Director, Post Graduate Institute (PGI)
Chandigarh or his nominee. | - | Member |

Setting up of AIMS like Hospitals

3996. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for selection of cities for opening AIIMS like hospitals in the States as announced by the Finance Minister; 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) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it is proposed to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). These states were chosen as they are under served in terms of medical infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, need for super-specialty services, etc.

NHDP - IV

3997. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether there is any plan to involve State Governments in road transport sector under the NHDP-IV phase;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of roads constructed under the National Highways Development Projects so far in different States, State-wise; and

(d) the length of roads proposed to be constructed under NHDP-IV, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a), (b) and (d) The NHDP-IV is at initial stage of formulation.

(c) State-wise length of road 4/6 laned under NHDP Phase-I, II and III-A is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise Details

Sl. No.	State	Length of road 4/6 laned under NHDP-I, II and IIIA completed as on April 30.4.2006 (All length in km) Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1129.30
2.	Bihar	187.79
3.	Delhi	32.00
4.	Gujarat	637.00
5.	Haryana	283.00
6.	Jharkhand	177.51
7.	Karnataka	596.34
8.	Maharashtra	566.84
9.	Orissa	297.54

1	2	3
10.	Rajasthan	741.56
11.	Tamil Nadu	498.23
12.	Uttar Pradesh	654.89
13.	Punjab	197.00
14.	Kerala	33.80
15.	Madhya Pradesh	43.00
16.	Assam	18.50
17.	Goa	13.00
18.	Chattisgarh	18.00
19.	West Bengal	436.16
Total		6561

[English]

Progress of National Highways Projects

3998. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether most of the National Highway Projects are lagging behind the schedule as reported in *The Hindustan* dated April 7, 2006;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government to the proposal of Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the hurdles being faced by the National Highway Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Despite constraints such as acquisition of land, forest and environment clearances, removal of utilities, law & order problems, poor performance of some contractors etc., the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is not running far behind the schedule. The status of the project as on 30.4.2006 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) It has been decided by the Government that the projects for which bids were invited prior to 27.10.2005, would be exempted from the purview of Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC). However, projects for which bids are invited subsequently would be subject to clearance from PPPAC.

(d) The steps taken to remove the hurdles being faced in implementation of National Highways Development Projects are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Status of Projects as on 30.04.2006

Project	Total Length*	Length Completed	Length under implementation	Balance for award	Likely date of Substantial completion
NHDP Ph I (mainly consists of GQ)	7498	6531	961	30	96% of GQ would be completed by June 2006
NHDP PhII (Mainly consists NS & EW corridor)	6736	—	5199	1501	Dec. 2008
NHDP Ph IIIA	4015	30	1090	2889	Dec. 2009

*Original approved length subject to change on preparation of DPRs.

Statement*Steps taken to remove the hurdles in implementation of NHDP*

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHA. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHA, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.
- (b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances, etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre - State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.
- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified. Earlier all the notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.
- (e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHA to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest

bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Communication Network In Villages

3999. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government's initiative to connect all villages in the country with a robust communication network has been successful;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought help of PSUs for the effective implementation of the initiative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the target date by which all the villages are likely to be connected with communication network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is supporting the provision of telecom facilities in the rural areas of the country for development of robust communication network in the country. USOF has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Private Service Providers for provision of following communication services in rural areas:

- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November 2007 in all the remaining 66,822 unconnected eligible villages, out of a total of 6.07 lakh villages, as on November 2004. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these villages, 24687 eligible villages have been provided with VPT facilities as on 31.03.2006.
- (ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in 46,253 villages with population more than 2,000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs). Of these villages 25,302 have been

provided with RCPs as on 31.03.2006 and the remaining are likely to be provided with RCPs by September, 2007.

- (iii) Replacement of 1,86,872 Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPTs. Out of these, 1,49,715 MARR based VPTs have so far been replaced as on 31.03.2006 and the remaining such VPTs are likely to be replaced by June, 2006.
- (iv) Provision of Rural Individual Phone Connections (RDELs) on demand in 1,685 commercially unviable Sort Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs). 4,05,622 RDELs have been provided as on 31.3.2006.

Skill Enhancement Programme for Emigrants

4000. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plans to launch a nation-wide skill enhancement programme for prospective emigrants, *i.e.*, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers;

(b) if so, the details and the names of States in which the said programme is likely to be launched and the amount likely to be allotted for the same;

(c) whether some of the States have sent any proposals to the Union Government seeking financial support for skill training programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to encourage and support the States to undertake skill upgradation programmes for potential unskilled/semiskilled emigrant workers. Initially the major sourcing States from where large numbers of workers emigrate each year will be the focus states. During 2006-07 a sum of Rs. one crore is being earmarked for this purpose. So far, proposals have been received from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala for commencing emigrant workers training programmes. Action is being taken to provide funding support for these programmes. The programmes are expected to commence during the current year.

Inclusion of Dhamra Shipping Harbour in NMDP

4001. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government for inclusion of Dhamra Shipping Harbour in the National Maritime Development Project (NMDP); and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In the Ports Sector, the National Maritime Development Programme envisages development of major ports only. Dhamra Shipping Harbour is not a major port. Responsibility for development of ports, other than major ports, vests in the State Governments concerned, which in this case is the Government of Orissa.

Status of Golden Quadrilateral Projects

4002. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 505 dated 22.02.2006 and state:

(a) the details of works still remaining to be completed for each contract separately with regard to the location, length and cost of civil works, date of award of contracts of civil works, date of completion as per the contract, length and area of land required to be acquired and acquired as on April 30, 2006, percentage of works completed by April 30, 2006 separately for financial and physical completion and length which was completed as on May 31, 2004; and

(b) the time schedule for completion of balance 4% of the Golden Quadrilateral, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The project-wise time schedule for balance of 4% of Golden Quadrilateral is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I*Details of works still pertaining to be completed under the Golden Quadrilateral Projects*

Sl.No.	Station from to	NH No.	Length (km)	Cost of civil works (crs.)	Date of award of contracts of civil works	Date of completion as per contract	Percentage of works completed (physical Progress by 30.4.2006)	Financial Status (expenditure in Crs.) As on 30.4.2006	Length Completed as on 31.5.2004	Land Required to be acquired (Ha)	Land acquired till 30.4.2006 (Ha)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/A)	2	50.83	328.49	Mar-2002	Mar-2005	85.78	344.5	0	67	67
2.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/B)	2	59.02	236.98	Sep-2005	Sep-2007	9.10	109.86	0	103	103
3.	Etawah Bypass (Balance Work)	2	13.60	146	Feb-2006	Feb-2008	0.00	53.37	0		
4.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/C)	2	72.83	323.95	Mar-2002	Mar-2005	64.60	270.96	0	189	189
5.	Sikandara-Bhaunsi (TNHP/II-A)	2	62.00	289.3	Feb-2001	Aug-2004	81.63	296.38	15.348	19	19
6.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B)	2	51.50	496.53	Mar-2005	Mar-2005	79.80	477.57	0	12	12
7.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C)	2	77.00	295.53	Mar-2001	Oct-2004	48.50	244.09	0	54	54
8.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge)	2	1.02	108.23	Sep-2003	Mar-2006	62.49	72.71	0	386	338
9.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II	2	38.99	448.99	Jun-2004	Dec-2006	27.13	219.68			
10.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III	2	44.71	505.27	Nov-2004	May-2007	22.00	197.42			
11.	Hardi-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	72.00	265.38	Mar-2001	Jul-2004	75.00	272.52	0	0	0
12.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A)	2	76.00	396.47	Mar-2002	Mar-2005	86.82	421.55	0	27	27
13.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sona (GTRIP/IV-C)	2	30.00	197.95	Mar-2002	Mar-2005	64.70	178.75	0	88	88
14.	Aurangabad-Barachatti (TNHP/V-A)	2	60.00	284.878	Sep-2001	Mar-2005	82.50	276.33	0	4	4
15.	Barachatti-Gorhar (GTRIP/V-B)	2	80.00	434.68	Mar-2002	Mar-2005	82.28	425.85	0	31	31
16.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C)	2	78.75	299.711	Sep-2001	Mar-2005	85.78	289.57	0	35	35
17.	Vivekanada Bridge and Approach	2	6.00	120	Sep-2002	Apr-2006	71.00	488.61	0	51.81	51.81
18.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (VVB-I)	6	54.40	447.7	May-2001	Mar-2004	96.12	501.36	0	13.08	13.08
19.	Bridges section (VVB-III)	6	1.73	67	Jan-2001	Jan-2004	93.83	80.2	0	0	0
20.	Kharagpur-Laxmannath (WB-IV)	60	65066	329.33	Jun-2001	Mar-2004	98.50	419.98	0	0	0
21.	Laxmannath-Baleshwar(OR-4)	60	53.41	257.93	Mar-2001	Dec-2003	92.50	419.98	0	365	365
22.	Bridges Section (ORWB-I)	60	0.00	75.77	Sep-2001	Jun-2004	94.00	72.21	0	0	0
23.	Balasure-Bhadrak (OR-III)	5	62.64	195.19	May-2001	Feb-2004	65.15	161.78	0	39.87	39.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24.	Bridges section (OR-V)	5	11.59	144.57	Aug-2001	May-2004	71.93	123.82	0	0	0
25.	Bhubaneswar-Khurda(OR-I)	5	26.30	118.9	Jan-2001	Jan-2004	80.26	118.16	8.15	99.93	97.61
26.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII)	5	55.71	163.26	Aug-2001	Apr-2004	43.09	138	0	406.287	406.207
27.	Ganjam-Iochapuram (OR-VIII) (Balance work)	5	50.80	242.76				100.01	0	337.16	337.16
28.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1) (Balance work)	5	48.00	53.88	Dec-2005	Dec-2006	6.20	123.7	0	131.3	131.3
29.	Katraj-Sarole (PS-3)	4	28.50	67.93	Nov-2001	May-2004	72.40	69.33	0	112.61	112.61
30.	Katraj Realignment (PS-4)	4	9.00	106.25	Nov-2002	Feb-2005	93.94	177.56	0	88.93	88.93
31.	Belgaum Bypass	4	18.00	97.64	Jun-2001	Dec-2003	96.50	154.79	14	22.25	22.19
32.	Belgaum-Dharwad	4	62.00	204	Apr-2002	Nov-2004	83.33	289.93	2	187.3	187.3
33.	Hubli-Haveri	4	64.50	183.65	Jun-2001	Dec-2003	67.77	203.65	0	214.01	214.01
34.	Haveri-Harhar	4	65.00	200.92	Mar-2002	Aug-2004	61.14	182.13	0	252.63	250.24
35.	Harhar-Chitradurga	4	77.0	264.87	Mar-2002	Aug-2004	63.00	239.77	0	195.48	195.47
36.	Chitradurga Bypass	4	18.00	87.24	Mar-2002	Aug-2004	50.33	71.43	0	22.55	22.54
37.	Chitradurga-Sira	4	66.70	253.24	Mar-2002	Aug-2004	82.61	278.62	0	187.87	187.86
38.	Tumkur Bypass	4	13.00	72.49	Dec-2001	Dec-2003	73.58	78.26	0	13.16	13.16
39.	Kanchipuram-Poonamallee	4	56.40	164.36	Jul-2001	Dec-2003	95.13	194.09	0	83.86	72.46

Statement II*Length Scheduled for completion after June 2006*

S.No.	Package	NH No.	Length (Km)	Length to be completed after June 2006	Anticipated completion	
1	2	3	4	5	7	
Golden Quadrilateral						
Mumbai-Chennai						
1.	Chitradurga Bypass	Karnataka	4	18	9.64	Notice for Termination issued, matter is subjudice
Total Mumbai-Chennai				18	9.64	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chennai-Kolkata						
1.	Bridges (WB-III)	West Bengal	6	1.73	1.73	September-06
2.	Dankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I)	West Bengal	6	54.4	-	September-06
3.	Srikakulam - Champawati (AP-1)	Andhra Pradesh	5	48	3.17	December-06
4.	Baleswar - Bhadrak (OR-III)	Orissa	5	62.64	5.02	December-06
5.	Sunakhala - Ganjam (OR-VII)	Orissa	5	55.713	11.93	December-06
6.	Ganjam - Ichapuram (OR-VIII)	Orissa	5	50.8	50.80	(Re-awarded) Sept.-2006
Total Chennai-Kolkata				273.283	72.65	
Delhi-Kolkata						
1.	Allahabad Bypass (Contract I) Bridge	Uttar Pradesh	2	1.02	1.02	April-07
2.	Etawah - Rajpur (I-C)	Uttar Pradesh	2	72.825	(0.00)	October-06
3.	Aurangabad - Barachatti (V-A)	Bihar	2	60	1.60	December-06
4.	Sasaram - Dehri-on-Sone (IV-C)	Bihar	2	30	2.00	December-06
5.	Barachatti - Gorhar (V-B)	Bihar/Jharkhand	2	80	3.79	December-06
6.	Vivekananda Bridge & Approaches	West Bengal	2	6	6.00	April-07
7.	Varanasi - Mohania (IV-A)	UP/Bihar	2	76	2.00	December-06
8.	Gorhar - Barwa Adda (V-C)	Jharkhand	2	78.75	2.06	December-06
9.	Kanpur - Fatehpur (II-B)	Uttar Pradesh	2	51.5	1.78	December-06
10.	Fatehpur - Khaga (II-C)	Uttar Pradesh	2	77	16.70	December-06
11.	Agra - Shikohabad (I-A)	Uttar Pradesh	2	50.83	0.13	December-06
12.	Allahabad Bypass (Contract III)	Uttar Pradesh	2	44.706	30.71	May-07
13.	Allahabad Bypass (Contract II)	Uttar Pradesh	2	36.987	22.39	June-07
14.	Shikohabad - Etawah (I-B)	Uttar Pradesh	2	59.02	53.02	September-07
15.	Etawah Bypass	Uttar Pradesh	2	13.6	13.80	February-08
Total Delhi-Kolkata				740.24	156.79	
Grand Total (GQ)				1031.5	239.1	

**Popularity of Indian Herbal Medicines
in Global Market**

4003. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the popularity of the Indian herbal medicines in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in collaboration with the Indian industries to promote Indian herbal medicines in the global market; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A survey of the herbal and Ayurvedic products in U.S.A. was commissioned jointly by the Department of AYUSH and the Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association in 2000-01. The survey indicated that on account of a large expatriate Indian Population in the U.S., there has been a perceptible increase in the popularity and consumption of Indian Ayurvedic medicines in the U.S.A. The data sourced from Ministry of Commerce & Industry in respect of Indian Medicinal exports also indicates that there is a significant consumption of medicines of Indian systems in the countries of European Union, Asia and to some extent in Middle East and in Africa.

(c) and (d) Government have taken a number of measures to promote Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines including their exports. Measures like laying down pharmacopoeial standards, enforcing compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices by manufacturing units, financial assistance to farmers for cultivation of medicinal plants, financial assistance for strengthening of State Drug Testing Laboratories, financial assistance to manufacturing units to become GMP compliant and incentives for participation by manufacturing units in international trade fairs/exhibitions and deputation of experts of Indian systems of medicine in some countries for popularization of these systems have been undertaken. The Department of AYUSH has also organized Arogya exhibitions in Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and has participated in some of the international trade fairs organized by Pharmaxil in India for promotion of Indian systems of medicine. Department

of AYUSH has also been organizing expositions on Indian systems of medicine during the World Health Assembly in Geneva for the last few years.

[Translation]

Deregulating Prices of Coal

4004. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has deregulated the prices of Coal mined by the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the manner in which the interests of the consumers are likely to be protected; and

(c) the profit earned by the State Government as a result of increased prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The prices of coal have been fully deregulated with effect from 1.1.2000. The Colliery Control Order, 2000 empowers coal companies to fix the coal prices taking into account the market forces, average cost of production and other relevant factors. Further, it has been decided that the Tariff Commission will be involved in pricing of coal for the power sector and to suggest modalities for pricing of coal for other sectors.

(c) Wherever the state taxes leviable on coal are assessed on ad-valorem basis, the buoyancy of revenue from such taxes would be dependant upon the nature of changes in the prices of coal.

[English]

**Internet Protocol Television through
Telephone Cables**

4005. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Internet Protocol Television through telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details of the plans chalked out therefor;

(c) the names of the cities where it is proposed to be implemented; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The Access Service Provider and Internet Service Provider can provide Broadband Services which *interalia* includes Internet Protocol Television Service through telephone cables depending upon their commercial decision. There are no mandatory roll-out obligations for the same. As per available information, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposed to implement this in Pune city in next six months while MTNL proposed to launch this service by June, 2006 in Delhi and September, 2006 in Mumbai subject to successful trial of such service in Delhi.

Disposal of Nuclear Wastes

4006. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a technical problem in the management and disposal of radioactive wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Energy Research Group has suggested certain solutions for safe storage of nuclear wastes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan of the Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. India has self reliant capability for safe management and disposal of radioactive waste.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir. Energy Research Group has brought out a report containing review of energy markets. In this report certain systems for safe storage of nuclear waste have been mentioned.

(d) Energy Research Group in its report "Review of Energy Market" also discusses on nuclear waste disposal.

Near surface disposal of low level waste and deep geological disposal of high level waste have been concluded as the internationally accepted system for safe disposal of nuclear waste. The report reviews India's nuclear fuel cycle and also describes the waste management programme and its main features.

(e) The work on development process and technology for management of radioactive waste was started about four decades ago by the Department of Atomic Energy. Low level radioactive waste after suitable treatment is disposed in engineered near surface disposal facility co-located with the respective nuclear installations. As far as the management of high level radioactive waste is concerned, a three step strategy has been adopted in India. The steps are:

- (i) Conversion of radioactive waste into stable, inert, solid waste form such as borosilicate glass;
- (ii) Interim storage for a period of 30-50 years; and
- (iii) Final disposal in deep underground geological repository after the interim storage period.

Pak/Chinese Consulates along Indo-Nepal Border

4007. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal King has allowed China and Pakistan to open consulates along the Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, whether protest has been lodged by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government of India has seen reports in the media suggesting the possibility of China and Pakistan opening their Consulates in the areas bordering India. However, no concrete information regarding such proposals has come to the notice of the Government. Government remains alert to all developments affecting India's national security interests.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to PRIs

4008. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 505.47 crore were to be released to Madhya Pradesh from 2000-01 to 2004-05 for the three tier Panchayati Raj Institutions as per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the amount released so far out of the above and the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released; and

(c) The reasons for not releasing the whole amount?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 454.91 crores was released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh upto 31-03-2005 by the Ministry of Finance, subject to the fulfillment of conditionalities attached to the release of grants and taking into account the pace of utilization of grants upto a prescribed period. No further grants can be released as the award period of the Eleventh Finance Commission was over on 31-3-2005.

Mobile Number Portability

4009. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has suggested Mobile Number Portability (MNP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the MNP is likely to become effective?

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

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on the issue of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) which *inter alia* includes mandating all Unified Access Service Licensees and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services Licencees to implement Mobile Number Portability within Service Area from 1.4.2007 in a phased manner, implementing MNP by 'All Query Method' adopting Centralized Clearing House.

(c) The recommendations are under consideration and no final decision has been taken so far.

[English]

Amount Allocated by PC for Annual Plans

4010. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Planning Commission for annual plans during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the names of the schemes for which the above allocated amount have been spent by the State Governments, year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any complaints regarding misuse of the Central funds as well as non-utilisation of funds on the pre-planned schemes of the State governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to conduct an inquiry into the above matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The details of agreed Annual Plan outlays of the States during the last three years (*i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06) state-wise and year-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Based on discussions with the States, Planning Commission allocates the total Annual Plan outlays of each State to various sectors such as agriculture, rural development, water resources, power, industry, transport, health & family welfare, social welfare and backward classes etc. The State Governments distribute the sectoral outlays amongst various schemes keeping in view the broad Plan priorities and the specific needs of the States.

(c) and (d) No such complaint has been received in the Planning Commission.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	States	Annual Plan 2003-04 Approved Outlay	Annual Plan 2004-05 Approved Outlay	Annual Plan 2005-06 Approved Outlay
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10970.46	12790.43	15,650.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	708.00	760.35	950.00
3.	Assam	1780.00	2175.00	3,000.00
4.	Bihar	3320.00	4000.00	5,329.65
5.	Chhattisgarh	2335.00	3322.46	4,275.00
6.	Goa	649.99	883.33	1,025.00
7.	Gujarat	7860.00	8518.21	11,000.00
8.	Haryana	2068.00	2305.71	3,000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1335.00	1400.38	1,600.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2500.00	3008.03	4,200.00
11.	Jharkhand	2935.85	4110.19	4,510.12
12.	Karnataka	9620.00	12322.92	13,555.00
13.	Kerala	4430.00	4852.03	5,369.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5703.00	6709.96	7,471.00
15.	Maharashtra	12050.00	9446.73	11,000.00
16.	Manipur	590.00	787.72	985.37
17.	Meghalaya	555.00	716.34	800.00
18.	Mizoram	480.00	616.52	685.00
19.	Nagaland	500.00	538.79	620.00
20.	Orissa	3200.00	2500.00	3,000.00
21.	Punjab	2822.00	3479.80	3,550.00
22.	Rajasthan	4258.00	6797.50	8,350.00
23.	Sikkim	405.00	491.07	500.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	7000.00	8001.00	9,100.00
25.	Tripura	650.00	700.27	804.00
26.	Uttar pradesh	7728.00	9661.51	13,500.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1575.00	1810.40	2,700.00
28.	West Bengal	3849.00	5019.62	6,476.00
	Total (States)	101,922.30	117,726.27	143,005.91

Foreign Firms in Telecom Sector

4011. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to dispense with telecoms regulations with a view to create a climate for small and medium entrepreneurs to step into technology manufacture in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign telecommunication giants to enter into the field of telecommunication; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, no industrial license or specific permission is required for manufacturing of telecom equipments. Small and Medium entrepreneurs are free to set up telecom equipments manufacturing units in this sector.

(c) and (d) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in various sub sectors of telecom sector is allowed as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) details in various Sub Sectors of Telecom Sector*

1. In manufacturing sector 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.
2. FDI upto 100% permitted in respect of the following telecom services:
 - (i) ISPs not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables)
 - (ii) Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I)
 - (iii) Electronic Mail; and
 - (iv) Voice Mail.

The above would be subject to the following conditions:

- (i) FDI upto 100% is allowed subject to the conditions that such companies would divest 26% of their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world.
- (ii) The above services would be subject to licensing and security requirements, wherever required.
- (iii) Proposals for FDI beyond 49% shall be considered by FIPB on case to case basis.

3. Foreign direct investment upto 74% permitted, subject to licensing and security requirements for the following:

- (i) Internet Service (with gateways)
- (ii) Infrastructure Providers (Category-II)
- (iii) Radio Paging Service.

4. Foreign Direct Investment upto 74% is permitted for the following as per the conditions of Press Note 5 (2005 Series) (copy enclosed).

- (i) International Long Distance
- (ii) National Long Distance Service
- (iii) Basic Telephone Service
- (iv) Cellular Mobile Service
- (v) Global Mobile Personal Communication
- (vi) Other Value Added Services.

Annexure*Government of India**Ministry of Commerce & Industry**Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion**Secretariat for Industrial Assistance***PRESS NOTE NO. 5 (2005 SERIES)**

Subject: Enhancement of the Foreign Direct Investment ceiling from 49 per cent to 74 per cent in the Telecom sector

1. In pursuance of the Government's commitment to liberalise the FDI regime, it has been decided to enhance the Foreign Direct Investment ceiling from 49 per cent to 74 per cent in certain telecom services [such as Basic, Cellular, Unified Access Services, National/International Long Distance, V-Sat, Public Mobile Radio Trunked

Services (PMRTS), Global Mobile Personal Communications Services (GMPCS) and other value added services], subject to the following conditions:

- A. The total composite foreign holding including but not limited to investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs), American Depository Receipts (ADRs), Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), convertible preference shares, proportionate foreign investment in Indian promoters/investment companies including then holding companies, etc., herein after referred as FDI, will not exceed 74 per cent. Thus, 74 per cent foreign investment can be made directly or indirectly in the operating company or through a holding company. Hence, the remaining 26 per cent will be owned by resident Indian citizens or an Indian Company (i.e. foreign direct investment does not exceed 49 percent and the management is with the Indian owners). It is clarified that proportionate foreign component of such an Indian Company will also be counted towards the ceiling of 74%. However, foreign component in the total holding of Indian public sector banks and Indian public sector financial institutions will be treated as 'Indian' holding. The licensee will be required to disclose the status of such foreign holding and certify that the foreign investment is within the ceiling of 74% on a half yearly basis.
- B. The majority Directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be resident Indian citizens, enforced through licence agreement. The appointment to these positions from among resident Indian citizens shall be made in consultation with serious Indian investors. Serious investor has been defined below in para G (ii).
- C. The Share Holder Agreements (SHA) shall specifically incorporate the condition that majority directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and CEO shall be resident Indian citizens and shall also envisage the conditions of adherence to Licence Agreement.
- D. FDI upto 49 per cent will continue to be on automatic route Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval shall be required for FDI in the licensee company/Indian promoters/

investment companies including their holding companies if it has a bearing on the overall ceiling of 74 per cent. While approving the investment proposals, FIPB shall take note that investment is not coming from unfriendly countries.

- (E) The investment approval by FIPB shall envisage the conditionality that Company would adhere to licence Agreement.
- (F) FDI shall be subject to laws of India and not the laws of the foreign country/countries.
- (G) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will enforce the above and the conditions mentioned below through appropriate amendment in licence:-
- (i) There shall be a non-obstante clause in the licence which confers powers upon the licensor to cancel the licence under certain defined circumstances.
- (ii) In order to ensure that at least one serious resident Indian promoter subscribes reasonable amount of the resident Indian shareholding, such resident Indian promoter shall hold at least 10 per cent equity of the licensee company
- (iii) The Company shall acknowledge compliance with the licence agreement as a part of Memorandum of Association of the Company. Any violation of the licence agreement shall automatically lead to the company being unable to carry on its business in this regard. The duty to comply with the licence agreement shall also be made a part of Articles of Association.
- (iv) Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Chief Finance Officer (CFO) shall be resident Indian Citizens. The Licensor/DoT shall also be empowered to notify key positions to be held by resident Indian citizens.
- (v) The Company shall not transfer the following to any person/ place outside India: -
- (a) any accounting information relating to subscriber (except for roaming/billing) (Note: it does not restrict a statutorily required disclosure of financial nature),

- (b) user information (except pertaining to foreign subscribers using Indian Operator's network while roaming) and
- (c) details of their infrastructure/network diagram except to telecom equipment suppliers/manufacturers who undertake the installation, commissioning etc. of the infrastructure of the licensee company on signing of non-disclosure agreement.
- (vi) The company when entering into roaming agreements with service providers outside India must provide, on demand, the list of such users (telephone numbers, in case of foreign subscribers using Indian Operator's network while roaming).
- (vii) The Company must provide traceable identity of their subscribers. However, in case of providing service to roaming subscriber of foreign Companies, the Indian Company shall endeavor to obtain traceable identity of roaming subscribers from the foreign company as a part of its roaming agreement.
- (viii) No traffic (mobile and landline) from subscribers within India to subscribers within India shall be hauled to any place outside India.
- (ix) No Remote Access (RA) shall be provided to any equipment manufacturer or any other agency outside the country for any maintenance/repairs by the licensee. However, RA may be allowed for catastrophic software failure (such as failure to boot up etc.) which would lead to major part of the network becoming non-functional for a prolonged period, subject to meeting the 3 following conditions:
- (a) An identified Government agency (Intelligence Bureau) will be notified, when RA is to be provided.
- (b) Remote Access password is to be enabled for a definite period only and only for access from pre-approved locations of the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Vendors and only for the equipments specifically under repair/maintenance.
- (c) The control of Remote Access i.e. activation, transfer of data termination, etc. shall be within the country and not at a Remote location, abroad.
- (d) The Government agency will be given all support to record the transactions for on-line monitoring.
- (e) Any equipment or software that forms part of the overall monitoring shall not be permitted to have remote access under any circumstances.
- (f) DoT will define appropriately the terms catastrophic software failure, major part of the network, and prolonged period used under this clause.
- (x) It shall be open to the Department of Telecommunications to restrict the Licensee Company from operating in any sensitive area from the national Security angle.
- (xi) In order to maintain the privacy of voice and data, monitoring shall only be upon authorization by the Union Home Secretary or Home Secretaries of the States/Union Territories.
- (xii) For monitoring traffic, the licensee company shall provide blind access of their network and other facilities as well as to books of accounts to the security agencies.
- (xiii) In case of not adhering to Licence conditions envisaged in para G the licence(s) granted to the company shall be deemed as cancelled and the licensor shall have the right to encash the performance bank guarantee(s) and the licensor shall not be liable for loss of any kind.
2. The conditions at para 1 above shall also be applicable to the existing companies operating telecom service(s) which had the FDI cap of 49%.
3. The relevant provisions of FDI policy for 'investment companies', as given in Press Note 2 (2000 series) dated 11.2.2000 issued by department of Industrial Policy and Promotion will no longer be applicable to telecom sector.
4. An initial correction time of 4 months from the date of issue of this notification shall be allowed to the existing licensee companies providing telecom services mentioned in para 1 above for ensuring adherence to the aforesaid conditions. An unconditional compliance to the aforesaid conditions shall be submitted to the licensor within this period.
5. Press Note 15 (1998 series) and Press Note 2 (2000 series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion stand modified to the above extent.

Sd/
(UMESH KUMAR)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

VRS to BSNL and MTNL Employees

4012. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and the MTNL has offered attractive VRS to its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of employees opted for VRS and since retired during the last three years, Group-wise and the details of package provided to them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees of the BSNL and the MTNL and to improve the services of both the organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has offered attractive Voluntary Retirement (VR) Scheme to its employees. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not offered any VR Scheme to its employees.

(b) In MTNL, three round of VR Scheme has been introduced so far:

- (i) In 2004 for Non-Executive (erstwhile Group 'C' and 'D') employees,
- (ii) In 2005 for Executive (erstwhile Group 'B') employees,
- (iii) In 2006 for Non-Executive employees.

(c) Details for MTNL are as given below:

Year	Group	Opted for VRS and Since Retired
2004	C	1659
	D	294
2005	B	611
2006	C	Scheme was open from 21st March 2006 to 10th April 2006. 1402 applications have been cleared by the Screening Committee of MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai.
	D	

The terminal benefits/packages under the scheme included VR Compensation equivalent to 60 days salary (Basic+DA) for each completed year of service or salary for number of years/months left till the date of superannuation, whichever is less, Retirement Gratuity, Leave Encashment, Provident Fund (PF) and Commutation of Pensionary Benefits, etc.

(d) MTNL and BSNL have been formed as Public Sector Units by carving out the service provisioning functions of this Department. The Government employees seeking absorption were given attractive terms and conditions of service for their absorption in BSNL and MTNL. On 30.9.2000, Government issued notification for insertion of Rule 37A in CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 providing adequate safeguards to protect the interest of the employees. The employees absorbed in MTNL and BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000 onwards are protected under Rule 37A.

BSNL and MTNL Boards have been empowered by the Government to take effective steps to improve the services. Some of the steps taken by BSNL/MTNL for improving the Telecom services in respective organizations are:

1. Modernisation of telecom network to reduce faults.
2. Provision of customer friendly new services at affordable prices.
3. Improving customer relations.
4. Tariff revision from time to time to meet the aspirations of the customers.
5. Measures to facilitate easy payment of telephone bills.
6. Comprehensive maintenance arrangements through Annual Maintenance Contract with the switching technology providers.
7. Continuous upgradation and updation of telephone exchanges.
8. Replacement of worn out and life expired equipments.
9. Upgradation of external plant by taking steps such as Pole-less Network, Replacement of Paper Core Cables by other Systems,

Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop, Interactive Voice Response System, provision of maintenance free Battery and Engine Alternators etc.

10. Addition of mobile switching capacities and extension/improvement of coverage of existing mobile services on highways, railway tracks and in other uncovered areas.
11. Expansion in Switching Capacity, Transmission Capacity, Optical Fibre Networks and introduction of new technologies like Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM), Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony, Broadband, Intelligent Network Services, etc.
12. Provision of Village Public telephones to make villages of the country accessible, etc.

Supply of Medicinal and Herbal Plants

4013. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the difficulties faced by India in supplying medicinal and herbal plants for the global herbal medicine and cosmetics industry; and

(b) the agencies involved in encouraging farmers to use latest technological developments for better and quicker yields of such plants and selling the produce in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The main difficulties faced are stringent quality and safety standards, absence of market authorization for herbal products and the non-recognition of Indian medicinal plants by regulatory authorities of foreign countries.

(b) Agencies like National Horticulture Board, National Horticulture Mission, Research Institutes/Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) and Universities are involved in providing financial and

technical support for improving the yield of medicinal plants. The National Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up to coordinate matters related to the development of medicinal plants sector. Agencies like APEDA, PHARMEXCIL and CHEMEXCIL are involved in export promotion of herbal products in global markets.

Plight of Minorities in Bangladesh

4014. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken note of the day to day killings, extortion, rape, arson, forceful eviction from properties of the religious minorities especially the Hindus in Bangladesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of minorities in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government is aware of reports including those appearing in the Bangladeshi media on attacks on properties and places of worship of the minority community in Bangladesh. The Government has shared its concern in this regard with the Government of Bangladesh.

Privatisation of Coal Mining

4015. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has reported net profit for the year 2005-06;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to privatize the coal mining in these subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Profit for the year 2005-06, subsidiary-wise, is as under:

(Figs. in Rs. Crore)

Company	Profit 2005-06 (Provisional)
ECL	357.40
BCCL	156.11
CCL	1,105.05
NCL	2,060.32
WCL	1,351.22
SECL	1,405.94
MCL	1,718.63
NEC/CIL	230.27
CMPDIL	3.59
Overall CIL	8,388.53

(c) No. Sir.

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

Side Effects of Oral Contraceptive Pills

4016. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any research to assess the side effects on women who continue to use oral contraceptive pills to avoid conception;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is mandatory for a doctor prescribing oral contraceptive pills to point out the side effects to patients;

(d) if so, whether the doctors are following this norm; and

(e) if not, the action taken against such doctors who violate the same?

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

(b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has conducted a randomised clinical trial on oral contraceptive pills. A total of 721 women were enrolled in the study with 383 women in triquilar-ED group (group-I) who were followed up for 3098 women month of use and 338 women enrolled in the low dose combination pill group (group-II) followed up for 2752 women month of use.

Contraceptive reliability, bleeding pattern, side effects and metabolic parameters were compared among the user of the 2 types of oral pills. The results of the study showed that there was no significant side effects during the one year of oral pills use.

(c) Yes, it is mandatory for the doctor prescribing oral contraceptive pill to provide all relevant information, including the side effects to the acceptor.

(d) In the Government of India Guidelines for Medical Officers for Administration of oral Contraceptive Pills it has been clearly indicated that each acceptor should be counseled on all the side effects before initiating the method.

(e) No such complaint has been received from any State/UT Government in this regard.

Weighing System of Coal

4017. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise quantum of coal produced in the South-East Coal Fields Ltd. and the Private Coal Fields in the Raigarh district in Chhattisgarh during each of the last 3 years and the current year;

(b) whether any alleged discrepancy was observed in the weighing system of coal in these areas;

(c) if so, the quantum of coal weighed and the quantum not weighed during the above period;

(d) the quantum of Coal that was seized for having been mined and transported illegally during the said period; and

(e) the details of the action taken to ensure that coal is transported only after being weighed by automatic weighing machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The year-wise quantum of coal produced in the South Eastern Coalfields

Limited (SECL) and Private Coal Fields located in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh during each of the last 3 years and the current year are as under:

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Company	2003-04	2004-05	*2005-06	*2006-07 (Upto) April
South Eastern Coal Field Limited	71.009	78.550	83.024	6.233
Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	2.466	2.965	5.310	Details Not Available
Monnet Iepat & Energy Ltd.	0	0.126	0.439	Details Not Available

*Provisional

(b) and (c) No discrepancy was observed in the weighing system of SECL.

(d) and (e) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), there is no such report of coal being illegally transported in SECL. The following initiatives have been taken by SECL to ensure that the coal is transported only after weighment:

- (i) All loading/despatch points are equipped with automatic weighing machines.
- (ii) In regard to Rail despatch there are in motion/static weighbridges.
- (iii) In case of failure of working weighbridges there are standby in motion/static weighbridges.
- (iv) As regards road despatches also there are standby weighbridges kept in case of any failure in the working weighbridges.
- (v) Apart from this there are security posts where it is ensured that the trucks have been weighed before despatch.

[*Translation*]

Inoperative Reactors

4018. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of reactors, which are not functioning at present;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the present condition of such reactors;

(c) whether there is likelihood of restarting such reactors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Out of 15 reactors in operation in the country, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-I (RAPS-I) at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan and Narora Atomic Power Station Unit-I (NAPS-I) at Narora in U.P are under shut down for major refurbishment.

(b) to (d) detailed health assessment and techno-economic evaluation for refurbishment is in progress for RAPS-I. The restart of the reactor would depend on evaluation of the results. In case of NAPS-I refurbishment work has already started and is expected to be completed by June 2007.

[*English*]

Economic Disparity between Cities and Villages

4019. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that one person out of every three does not get adequate meal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the income of people living in rural areas is continuously declining and there is wide economic disparity between cities and villages;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) On the basis of the data of 55th Round (1999-2000) large sample survey conducted by NSSO, the number of people not having two square meals a day throughout the year was 3.3% in rural areas and 0.9% in urban areas at national level based on responses to questions on food sufficiency. The state-wise information on per thousand distribution of households by food availability status during the year 1999-2000 is given in enclosed Statements I and II.

(c) and (d) Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation estimates per capita income measured in terms of Net

Domestic Product (NDP) separately for rural and urban areas at current prices only for the base years of National Accounts Series. CSO has recently revised the base year of National Accounts Series to 1999-2000 for which the provisional estimates are available. The annual per capita incomes in rural and urban areas for 1980-81, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given in the table below:

Table

The Annual Per Capita Income (in Rs.)

	1980-81	1993-94	1999-2000
Rural	1245	5783	11036
Urban	2888	13525	29057
Ratio (Urban/Rural)	2.32	2.34	2.63

(e) The government has given priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty and accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices.

Statement I

Per 1000 distribution of households by food availability Status-1999-2000

S.No.	States/Groups of States (for UTs)	Rural (no. per 1000 households)		
		throughout the year	only some months of the year	No month of the Year
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	978	17	2
2.	Assam	922	31	40
3.	Bihar	932	47	13
4.	Gujarat	994	4	1
5.	Haryana	983	14	1
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	994	3	0
7.	Karnataka	989	9	0

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Kerala	969	23	6
9.	Madhya Pradesh	963	30	1
10.	Maharashtra	977	17	2
11.	Orissa	916	65	15
12.	Punjab	990	2	0
13.	Rajasthan	997	1	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	987	4	3
15.	Uttar Pradesh	974	14	7
16.	West Bengal	885	81	23
17.	All India	962	26	7

Statement II*Per 1000 distribution of households by food availability Status—1999-2000*

S.No.	States/Groups of States (for UTs)	Urban (no. per 1000 households)		
		throughout the year	only some months of the year	No month of the Year
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	990	7	1
2.	Assam	983	6	9
3.	Bihar	981	20	11
4.	Gujarat	991	2	7
5.	Haryana	992	7	1
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	999	0	0
7.	Karnataka	994	1	1
8.	Kerala	983	15	2
9.	Madhya Pradesh	982	11	1
10.	Maharashtra	983	4	2
11.	Orissa	988	9	16

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Punjab	997	1	0
13.	Rajasthan	998	2	0
14.	Tamil Nadu	988	5	1
15.	Uttar Pradesh	987	7	3
16.	West Bengal	987	11	9
17.	Delhi	996	0	1
18.	All India	986	6	3

LTC to Port Blair

4020. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation from various Government employees unions/associations to permit Group A and B Government servants to travel between Kolkata/Chennai and Port Blair by air (Economy Class) while availing LTC for Port Blair;

(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 PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Representations from various quarters were received to extend the facility of air travel from Kolkata or Chennai to Port Blair while availing LTC for Port Blair in lieu of home-town which was earlier allowed to all Group A and B Government servants for a limited period of six months from 25.5.2005 to 24.11.2005. The matter was considered by the Government and it was found not feasible to extend the facility beyond 24.11.2005.

[Translation]

Impact of Overburden on Environment

4021. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been lodged against the Western Coal Fields Ltd., the ancillary company of the Coal India Limited (CIL) regarding the adverse effect on environment on account of dumping of Overburden (OB) along the Bank of the river Irai in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons for dumping of OB in the said area;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No complaint has been lodged against Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) regarding the adverse effect on environment by dumping of overburden (OB) along the bank of river Irai in Chandrapur. However, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Hansraj Ahir had written a letter to CMD, WCL in April, 2006 about irregular dumping of OB by Chandrapur Area of WCL and the financial loss thereof.

(b) WCL acquired land of an area of 122.03 Ha. under Coal Bearing Act with the permission of State Government on either side of the Irai River for the purpose of coal mining by opencast mine and dumping of OB at Hindustan Lalpeth OC (HLOC) Mine. Accordingly, the acquired land is being used for the said purposes. HLOC Mine Extn Phase-I & Phase - II are located on either side of Irai River and are seasonal mines which

are operated during the dry period only. HLOC Extn. Phase-II mine is exhausted and is being back filled by overburden of phase-I mine.

In order to facilitate the crossing over the river for dumping OB material in de-coaled area of phase-II mine, a temporary causeway was made as per yearly practice with three rows of Hume Pipes of 1200 mm diameter. The causeway has been removed after the completion of work. The flow of Irai River is never stopped with this arrangement. Re-handling of OB material was not done at this place.

(c) Departmental investigation was conducted based on News published in the Newspapers on the matter.

(d) The enquiry revealed that no OB dumping along the bank of the Irai river was done.

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

[English]

Implementation of RGGV Yojana

4022. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has highlighted several critical shortcomings in the implementation of the Rs. 16,000 crore Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has evaluated the progress made under the scheme during the year 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the target fixed under the scheme has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission sent written replies on Rs.16,000 Crore Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) to Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination of Demand for Grants for Ministry of Planning for 2006-07 indicating critical shortcomings in implementation of RGGVY. The details are as follows:

(i) The revised definition for village electrification requires electrification of 10% of the total households in that village to be recognized as electrified. The number of villages electrified in 2005-06 as reported by Ministry of Power (as on 28.03.2006) is 7741 villages & 14,741 rural households (including 4547 BPL households) against the target of 10,000 villages. Clearly the claim relating to the number of villages electrified appears high when compared to the number of households actually electrified. This needs independent verification to assess ground realities.

(ii) The current objective of the RGGVY does not match the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) objective *viz.* electrification of all households in five years. The current objective aims to only provide electricity access to all rural households over a period of 5 years and electricity connections only to BPL households. Thus at the end of 5 years all households will not be electrified as envisaged by NCMP.

(iii) Government of India approved RGGVY with 90% capital subsidy on the condition that the revenue sustainability of the RE programme will be established with this level of capital subsidy. However, it is increasingly clear that with the current load profile of rural India continuing State Government subsidies would be inevitable unless the programme is required to be implemented differently by a suitable Rural Electrification policy.

(c) Planning Commission has not yet evaluated the progress made under the scheme during 2005-06.

(d) Ministry of Power on the basis of reports received from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has indicated that 9819 un-electrified villages have been electrified in

2005-06 against the target of 10,000 villages. In addition, 350 electrified villages have been covered for intensive electrification, which involves provision of access to electricity to rural households.

(e) and (f) In view of the above the questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Coalfields

4023. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to take loan from the World Bank for the modernisation of coalfields;

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

(c) whether the internal resources are adequate to meet the demand of modernisation of coalfields: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has no proposal to take loan from the World Bank for modernisation of coalfields. However, modernisation of coal mines is an integral part of CIL's production plan. CIL has set a production target of 363.80 million tonnes for the year 2006-07. Implementation of this production plan incorporates, besides others, modernisation initiatives like increase in mechanisation of underground operations and utilization of high productive technologies *viz.* Longwall mining and Room & Pillar method using continuous miner-shuttle car combination. While in the area of opencast mining, efforts are made for installation of higher capacity equipments for excavation and transportation, computerized fleet and man management system like Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System, etc.

(c) and (d) The capital investment of Rs. 3063.70 crores for the year 2006-07 is proposed to be met from internal financial resources of CIL and is adequate to finance CIL's modernisation needs.

Facilities in Children's Ward OPDs

4024. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate facilities for operation/dressing are available in the Children's Ward OPDs (surgery) in all the Central Government hospitals;

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

(c) whether alleged irregularities being committed by some officers of the said department have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Adequate facilities for operation and dressing for children are available in all Central Government hospitals.

(c) to (e) No such report has been received.

New Work Culture in Government Offices

4025. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff and officers working in the Government offices have recently been directed to evolve a new work culture and show results on the patterns of the corporate sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above direction also includes the provision to decide the career progress on the basis of working condition and work culture in Government offices as prevalent in Europe and America and also on the basis of performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government officers and staff of the country have been provided with the same basic facilities and other facilities that are available to those working in Europe and America;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Comparison with Europe and America is inappropriate, however, the Government has been making efforts to improve the working conditions and provide updated facilities to its staff.

[English]

Facilities to Postal Employees

4026. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities available to the employees engaged in Postal Services in the country;

(b) whether employees engaged in sorting and distribution of Postal mail have been made permanent;

(c) if so, whether they are paid salary equivalent to the permanent employees;

(d) if so, the number of such employees in the country; and

(e) the further action likely to be taken by the Government in regard to such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are two categories of employees in Department of Posts *viz.*

— Departmental Employees

— Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS)

However, Casual labourers are also engaged against the work of seasonal, casual or intermittent nature.

Facilities being granted to regular and Gramin Dak Sewaks under welfare schemes is given in the enclosed Statement. Casual Labourers who have been granted temporary status are entitled to Weekly off, Bonus and Leave.

(b) Sorting and distribution of mail in departmental post offices is mainly done by regular departmental employees. In Branch Post offices, it is done by Gramin Dak Sewaks (Gramin Dak Sewak Mail Deliverers). Gramin Dak Sewaks are eligible for promotion against the regular vacancies of Group 'D' Postmen. They are also eligible for the unfilled vacancies of Group 'C' in the promotion quota subject to the fulfilling of prescribed conditions.

(c) Gramin Dak Sewaks are employed for 3 to 5 hrs. depending upon the workload and are paid Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) on pro-rata basis equivalent to the pay of corresponding category of Departmental employees.

Casual labourers are paid on the basis of minimum of the pay scale of the category in which they are engaged. However, Casual labourers conferred temporary status are also granted periodical increments.

(d) There are 85,039 Gramin Dak Sewak Mail Deliverers engaged for distribution/delivery of mail in the rural areas.

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

Statement

Facilities Available to the Employees Engaged in Postal Service

(1) Financial Assistance in cases of death of Postal Employees/GDSs, etc.

Financial assistance of Rs. 7000 (Rs. Seven Thousand Only) is payable as immediate death relief.

(2) Financial Assistance in case of death of Postal Employees/GDSs etc. by terrorists, robbers, etc. while not on duty

At present, if a Postal Employee/Gramin Dak Sevak etc. is murdered by terrorists/robbers etc. while not on duty, financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 is payable to the bereaved family.

(3) Financial Assistance in cases of natural calamities, fire and floods

Financial assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 1500 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred only) is payable to the Departmental Employees affected by fire, floods and natural calamities. In case of GDSs, the amount of financial assistance is limited to a maximum of Rs. 750 (Rs. Seven Hundred and Fifty only).

(4) Financial Assistance in cases of prolonged and serious illness/major surgeries

Heads of Circles have been delegated financial powers to sanction financial assistance from the Circle Welfare Fund under their discretionary powers upto Rs. 10000 (Rs. Ten Thousand only) in each case of proved exceptional hardship relating to serious or prolonged illness or major surgical operations like cancer, heart operation or renal failures for Postal employees or their dependents.

In rare and exceptionally deserving cases where it is considered necessary to provide additional financial assistance beyond Rs. 10,000, Postal Directorate is competent.

The financial assistance upto Rs. 1,500 (Rs. One thousand five Hundred only) can be granted in exceptionally hard cases of prolonged/serious illness in respect of GDSs, Casual Mazdoors and Part Time employees.

(5) Incentive for excellence in academic achievement for 10th and 12th Class.

Five awards (Rs.1000, Rs. 800, Rs. 700, Rs. 600 and Rs.500) are given for the children of staff in each of the various groups purely on merit on the basis of the marks in 10th and 12th Standard Board Examination.

(6) Holiday Homes

Holiday Homes have been established throughout the country for the benefit of the postal employees.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

4027. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Project has suffered a set back due to involvement of some fake companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many contractors associated with the National Highway development Projects are not laying the roads as per norms of the National Highways Authority of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such contractors?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The work is being carried out as per laid down standards only.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Monitoring of World Bank Funds

4028. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has reviewed the working of the Planning Commission with regard to the monitoring of the funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken so far in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***MoUs with Private Foreign Shipping Companies**

4029. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into MoUs with private foreign shipping companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ports likely to be constructed under the agreements, location-wise;

(d) whether Gangavaram Port in Andhra Pradesh is also likely to be taken up under the joint venture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Responsibility for development of ports other than Major Ports vests with the State Government concerned, which in the case of Gangavaram Port is the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]***Financial Discipline by States**

4030. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual plan outlay sanctioned to the States between 2003-04 and 2006-07, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned in addition to the above plan outlay during the said period under different heads alongwith the details of the works for which the same were sanctioned, year-wise;

(c) the names of the states which stand out in respect of financial discipline and infrastructure along with the details of the States in respect of their financial performance during the year 2005; and

(d) the details of allocation made and additional funds given during the current year to various States including Madhya Pradesh which have shown good financial discipline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The details of Annual Plan outlays/Revised Outlay to the States between 2003-04 to 2006-07 (state-wise and year-wise) is at statement-I. Amount sanctioned as Additional Central Assistance during the year is also included in the Annual Plan Outlays of the respective Plan and is reflected in Revised Plan Outlay issued at the end of financial year.

(c) Financial performance in terms of resources realized *vis-a-vis* approved plan resources of States during 2004-05 is shown in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) Allocation of Central Assistance (Grants only) to States for Annual Plan 2006-07 is given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Annual Plan 2003-04		Annual Plan 2004-05		Annual Plan 2005-06		Annual Plan 2006-07 Approved Outlay
		Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10970.46	10028.00	12790.43	12,950.29	15,650.77	13,530.47	20,000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	708.00	723.00	760.35	760.35	950.00	817.94	1100.00
3.	Assam	1780.00	1797.00	2175.00	2,175.00	3,000.00	3,000.00*	3507.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Bihar	3320.00	2642.00	4000.00	3,059.22	5,329.65	4,735.46	8250.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	2335.00	2335.00	3322.46	3,369.90	4,275.00	4,097.38	5,378.06
6.	Goa	649.99	619.20	883.33	849.94	1,025.00	1,025.00*	1200.00
7.	Gujarat	7860.00	6740.00	8518.21	8,809.79	11,000.00	11,000.00*	12503.50
8.	Haryana	2068.00	1860.00	2305.71	2,236.72	3,000.00	3,059.40	3300.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1335.00	1335.00	1400.38	1,434.60	1,800.00	1,675.00	1800.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2500.00	2574.74	3008.03	3,170.71	4,200.00	4,200.00\$	4,347.67
11.	Jharkhand	2935.85	2935.85	4110.19	4,139.88	4,510.12	4,519.49	6500.00
12.	Karnataka	9620.00	10083.50	12322.92	11,741.17	13,555.00	12,852.82	16168.00
13.	Kerala	4430.00	3798.23	4852.03	3,813.14	5,369.00	5,357.17	6210.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5703.00	5076.04	6709.96	6,435.05	7,471.00	8,325.00	9020.00
15.	Maharashtra	12050.00	10500.00	9446.73	9,665.25	11,000.00	11,000.00*	14829.00
16.	Manipur	59.00	590.00	787.72	789.11	985.37	985.37	1160.00
17.	Meghalaya	555.00	536.00	716.34	679.00	800.00	723.10	900.00
18.	Mizoram	480.00	525.51	616.52	639.45	685.00	732.78	758.00
19.	Nagaland	500.00	504.00	538.79	574.33	620.00	676.25	760.00
20.	Orissa	3200.00	2714.50	2500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3500.00
21.	Punjab	2822.00	2333.88	3479.80	2,750.00	3,550.00	3,550.00*	4000.00
22.	Rajasthan	4258.00	5504.52	6797.50	6,742.47	8,350.00	8,000.00	8501.41
23.	Sikkim	405.00	405.00	491.07	492.74	500.00	511.10	550.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	7000.00	7000.00	8001.00	8,001.00	9,100.00	9,113.57	#
25.	Tripura	650.00	622.03	700.27	725.37	804.00	823.64	950.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7728.00	7257.72	9661.51	7,670.65	13,500.00	13,579.12	19000.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1575.00	1607.75	1810.40	1,855.37	2,700.00	2,732.11	4000.00
28.	West Bengal	3894.00	3065.28	5019.62	4,680.10	6,476.00	6,032.78	8024.36

Plan size has not yet finalised.

* Revision not sought by the State Government; Approved outlay taken.

Statement

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	States	Annual Plan – 2004-05		
		AP	Pre-Actuals	% Realisation
1	2	3	4	5
Special Category States				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	760.35	350.59	46.11
2.	Assam	2175.00	1638.37	75.33
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1400.38	1404.58	100.30
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	3170.71	2728.31	86.05
5.	Manipur	787.72	647.57	82.21
6.	Meghalaya	716.34	590.17	82.39
7.	Mizoram	616.52	476.93	77.36
8.	Nagaland	538.79	450.93	83.69
9.	Sikkim	530.95	405.75	76.42
10.	Tripura	700.27	598.77	85.51
11.	Uttaranchal	1810.40	1748.14	96.56
Non Special Category States				
1.	Andhara Pradesh	12790.42	11486.56	89.65
2.	Bihar	4762.59	4246.99	89.17
3.	Chattisgarh	3322.46	2724.25	81.99
4.	Goa	892.77	844.11	94.55
5.	Gujarat	8518.21	9696.10	113.83
6.	Haryana	2305.71	2352.46	102.03
7.	Jharkhand	4554.56	3975.95	87.30
8.	Karnataka	12322.91	11163.69	90.59
9.	Kerala	4852.03	3930.78	81.01
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6709.96	6635.21	98.89
11.	Maharashtra	9446.73	10385.88	109.94
12.	Orissa	2514.84	3892.78	154.79

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Punjab	3479.80	2076.31	59.67
14.	Rajasthan	6797.60	5983.66	88.03
15.	Tamil Nadu	8001.00	8285.84	103.56
16.	Uttar Pradesh	9661.51	7352.67	76.10
17.	West Bengal	5019.62	3539.56	70.51

Statement III

(Rs. crores)

Sl. No.	States	Normal Central Assistance	ACA for EAPs	Special and Other Programmes	Total Central Assistance (1 + 2 + 3)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Special Category States					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	698.98	4.50	236.02	939.50
2.	Assam	1549.90	571.75	886.37	3008.02
3.	Himachal Pradesh	851.41	20.82	645.69	1517.92
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	1687.02	330.92	1565.79	3583.73
5.	Manipur	514.79	67.11	634.56	1216.46
6.	Meghalaya	427.70	30.00	238.08	695.78
7.	Mizoram	492.79	75.00	149.46	717.25
8.	Nagaland	521.05	8.00	192.92	721.97
9.	Sikkim	332.37	35.00	97.55	464.92
10.	Tripura	726.76	1.74	247.72	976.22
11.	Uttaranchal	840.89	151.61	476.06	1468.56
Non Special Category States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1297.09	1422.94	2546.35	5266.38
2.	Bihar	2293.07	0.00	2209.54	4502.61
3.	Chhatisgarh	609.48	344.09	557.41	1510.98
4.	Goa	109.38	75.00	179.83	364.21
5.	Gujarat	816.20	1131.53	1868.14	3815.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Harayana	362.27	69.44	253.75	685.46
7.	Jharkhand	768.44	15.00	625.84	1409.28
8.	Karnataka	896.92	1339.06	1789.18	4025.16
9.	Kerala	660.27	1064.75	456.21	2181.23
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1453.58	980.14	1809.81	4243.53
11.	Maharashtra	1398.02	905.90	2745.08	5049.00
12.	Orissa	1165.68	898.16	1252.18	3316.02
13.	Punjab	441.21	149.50	419.65	1010.36
14.	Rajasthan	1200.66	1012.20	1009.41	3222.27
15.	Tamil Nadu #				
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4114.77	724.39	2316.96	7156.12
17.	West Bengal	1611.17	1814.79	638.33	4064.29

#Meeting not held.

[English]

Agencies Involved In Construction and Maintenance of National Highways

4031. SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA:
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

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

(a) the names of the different agencies through which the Government executes the construction, maintenance and repair works of the National Highways in the country;

(b) whether the Government has done any comparative study of the performance of the different agencies with respect to cost involved, time taken, quality output etc, for the same type of work;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether different works on some stretches of NHs in the country are being executed directly by the Ministry;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to use the technical competence of the Ministry's officers by involving them in the execution of the works and further by setting up more PIUs headed by Ministry's own officers in order to reduce the multiple layers of responsibility in different types of National Highways Works;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government proposes to execute the National Highway works on some stretches like Pasraha Zone (NH-31) in Bihar, directly by the Ministry's officers; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Ministry executes the construction, maintenance and repair works of the National Highways through the State Governments concerned, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(b) to (d) No Sir. The works of National Highway Development Project (NHDP) comprises mainly 4/6 laning of National Highways with higher specification. The works on National Highways in difficult and border areas have been entrusted to the BRO. The works on balance length

of National Highways are being implemented by the State Governments. These are not comparable with respect to cost, time taken to complete the project and quality of the work.

(e) and (f) Only construction of four bridges in replacement of existing causeways on NH-74 in Uttaranchal has been implemented through a PIU consisting of the Ministry's officers and recently construction of another four bridges in replacement of the existing causeways on NH-72 between Dehradun and Pounta Sahib has been entrusted to the same PIU.

(g) and (h) There is no such proposal for implementation of further works by the PIUs by this Ministry.

(i) and (j) As per policy of the Ministry, improvement works in Pasraha Zone on NH-31 in Bihar has been recently sanctioned by the Ministry for implementation by the State Government. Execution of such works through PIU of the Ministry is not contemplated.

Non-activation of STD Facility

4032. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has offered free STD facility under life time free incoming calls connection to the Government Employees at the rate of Rs. 400 plus tax;

(b) if so, whether free STD facility is activated instantly with the connection;

(c) if not, whether non-activation of STD facility constituted deficiency in service on the part of the MTNL;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints from the subscribers in this regard,

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, MTNL Delhi has offered STD facility without security deposit and with usual call charges and lifetime free incoming calls to Central

Government employees at Delhi and to DoT, BSNL and MTNL employees at Mumbai at the concessional rate of Rs. 400 + tax for a limited period.

(b) For those subscribers who fulfilled the mandatory formalities the STD facility was activated instantly while activating the connection.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A total number of 5892 complaints were received and all these complaints have already been redressed.

[Translation]

Cooking Gas from Coal

4033. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to produce cooking gas from coal as on the lines of production of oil from coal, as reported in *The Dainik Jagaran* dated April, 14, 2006;

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

(c) whether the production of cooking gas will be based on the technology developed by the foreign companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the cost of production of cooking gas and oil from coal *vis-a-vis* crude oil prices in the international market has been worked out; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no such proposal to set up a new plant for production of cooking gas from coal as reported in *The Dainik Jagaran* dated April, 14, 2006, at present.

(c) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

Alleged Acquiring of Contracts on Forged Documents

4034. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some private companies are allegedly cheating the National Highways Authority of India by acquiring contracts on the basis of forged documents as reported in *The Dainik Jagran* dated January 20, 2006;

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

(c) the number of such fraudulent companies identified by the Government;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against the guilty companies and erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Director of M/s Maharia Resurfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd. has been arrested by Delhi Police. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has filed 5 complaints with Delhi Police against the contractors M/s Maharia Resurfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd., M/s Maharia Raj (Joint Venture) and M/s You-one Maharia (JV) for furnishing false bank guarantees in execution of five contracts. Delhi Police is investigating the matter. In addition FIR has been lodged against M/s Rana Projects International Ltd. for submission of forged bank guarantee.

(d) to (f) The Vigilance Wing of the NHAI is investigating the matter. NHAI has strengthened the system of verification of bank guarantees to prevent any such recurrence.

Ban on Indian Atomic Scientists

4035. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has banned Indian firms under the US-Iran Proliferation Treaty, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Administration has also banned Indian atomic Scientists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government for getting these restrictions lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) On September 29, 2004, the United States imposed sanctions, pursuant to Section 2 & 3 of the Iran Proliferation Act of 2000 of the United States on fourteen entities, which included two Indian scientists, Dr. Y.S.R. Prasad and Dr. C. Surendar. Later, under the same provision of the US law, on December 30, the United States imposed sanctions on nine foreign firms that included two Indian firms Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd. and Sandhya Organics Ltd. The sanctions bar the US Government from doing business with these firms and persons, including providing assistance to them or permitting participation in US Government assistance programmes. They also prohibit all US Government sales of any item on the US munitions list, any defence article, defence services or design or construction services under the Arms Export Control Act of the United States. They also ban export licenses to sell dual-use items under the United States' Export Administration Act of 1979 or the Export Administration Regulations, and suspend any existing licenses.

(e) The Government of India issued statements through the MEA Spokesperson on both occasions; stating, in the case of atomic scientists, that we did not share the US assessment. One of the scientists Dr. C. Surendar had never visited Iran while in service or after his retirement. Dr. Y.S.R. Prasad had initially visited Iran under the aegis of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. Thereafter, he provided consultancy on safety related aspects connected with the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant which is under IAEA safeguards. He had not visited Iran since mid-2003. The spokesperson also stated that no sale of materials, equipment and technologies was involved, no transfer of sensitive technology had taken place, Government of India's commitment to prevent onward proliferation is second to none and our track record in this regard is well-known. With regard to the sanctions on the two Indian firms, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs stated

that US actions were not justified as these entities had not acted in violation of our laws or regulations. The Government of India also took up the issue of sanctions with the US Government during bilateral interactions. These efforts resulted in the US Government announcement, through a Federal Register notification on December 30, 2005 that sanctions on Dr. C. Surendar had been withdrawn. Sanctions on Dr. Y.S.R. Prasad and the two Indian firms –Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd. and Sandhya Organics Ltd. – have not been lifted. Government of India is continuing its efforts with the US Government.

[English]

Construction of Defence Roads

4036. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary, Defence, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways paid a visit to Arunachal Pradesh last year for the construction of Defence roads from there to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Expressways

4037. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct new expressways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work of the aforesaid expressways is likely to be completed in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the State-wise details of the expressways;

(e) whether schemes have been formulated/being formulated to connect the cities within the reach of 1000 kms with the aforesaid expressways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Expressways totalling a length of 1000 km are envisaged to be taken up under NHDP Phase-VI.

(c) No, Sir. The proposed length of expressway is planned to be completed by 2015.

(d) In the first stage, a 400 km long expressway between Vadodara in Gujarat to Mumbai in Maharashtra would be constructed. For the balance 600 km. the potential routes are Delhi–Chandigarh, Delhi–Jaipur, Delhi–Meerut, Delhi–Agra, Bangalore–Chennai and Kolkata–Dhanbad.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

[English]

Health Smart Cards

4038. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of launching of Health Smart Cards by the Confederation of Indian Industry utilizing global fund to fight AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to buy Health Smart Cards which will cover all the doctors in Government hospitals and patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government had received any funds from various agencies of US for AIDS awareness programme during 2005; and

(e) if so, the details of utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Health Smart Card has been developed by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in consultation with National AIDS Control Organization under NGO component of Global Fund (Round 4). A Small Scale on-site feasibility study was conducted in June-August 2005 at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), Vasant Kunj. Further, a pilot study for feasibility of implementing the smart card was initiated from March 2006 at Dr. RML Hospital and LRS Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi. The key benefit of the smart card is that it acts as a portable medical record, ensure data privacy and data confidentiality and facilitate easy storage of data and will, therefore ensure better monitoring and adherence to ARV treatment. After receiving the outcome of the feasibility study, Government will take a view on the introduction of the Smart Card under the HIV/AIDS Programme.

(d) With assistance from the USAID, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra received financial assistance during 2005-06 as under:

Tamil Nadu	APAC	Project Rs. 15.73 crore
Maharashtra	AVERT	Project Rs. 6.25 crore

(e) The details of utilization of funds during 2005-06 under these projects is as follows:

APAC Project

S.No.	Nature of Expenditure	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Administration	212.741
2.	NGO grant	718.28
3.	NGO support & development	565.56
4.	Research	35.29
5.	Monitoring & Evaluation	27.04
6.	Others	14.09
Total		1573.00 Rs. 15.73 crore

AVERT Project

S.No.	Expenditure Head	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Improving Comprehensive Health Services for HRGs	141.11
2.	Reduce High Risk Behaviour in Priority Populations	227.31
3.	Capacity Development of CBGs/NGOs	83.26
4.	Communication Support Program	20.07
5.	Increased Use of Research and Epidemiologic Data	16.16
6.	Program Management and Administration	123.45
7.	Others	13.64
Total		625.00 Rs. 6.25 crore

[Translation]

Indo-Russia Initiative in IT Sector

4039. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) whether any initiatives has been taken for the development of an intersat lingual computer between the Governments of India and Russia;

(b) if so, the time by which the said computer is likely to be developed; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Indian Information Technology industry?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of NHs Into Four or Six Lanes

4040. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways converted or being converted into four lane or six lane Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the date by which National Highway No. 3 which is known as Agra-Mumbai National Highway is likely to be converted into four lane road in the Madhya Pradesh Border;

(c) whether action is being taken for construction of By-pass on this National Highway No. 3 in Shajapur town of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which bypass is likely to be constructed there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) NH-3, NH-7, NH-25, NH-26, NH-75 & NH-76 are being four laned partly/fully in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Four laning of Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan Border section of National Highway No. 3 is in progress and the same is expected to be completed by March 2009. Detailed project report for Khalaghat to Maharashtra border section of NH-3 is under preparation. No time frame can be given at present for four laning of Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra Border section of National Highway No. 3.

(c) Detailed Project Report for taking this bypass on Build, Operate and Transfer basis is under preparation at present.

(d) The proposal is only at Planning stage and hence no time frame for its construction can be indicated at this stage.

[English]

Rental Liability on Missions Abroad

4041 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a comprehensive and time-bound short term plan for 18 identified stations with high rental liability and a long term plan for all other stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A year-wise plan for acquisition of properties till financial year 2009-10 has been prepared.

The following 18 stations have been identified and action has been initiated for purchase of properties for housing Chancery or Embassy Residence, or both considering the high rental outgo at these stations:

Bahrain, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Geneva, Hamburg, Istanbul, Kyiv, Munich, Osaka-Kobe, Paris, Rome, Shanghai, Sofia, Stockholm, Sydney, Tehran, Tel Aviv and Toronto.

Additionally, the Government also has plans to purchase property in other stations where it is economical to purchase such properties.

During financial year 2005-06, properties have been purchased in Paris and Ulaanbaatar. Part payment for purchase of property in Georgetown and Caracas has already been made and the sale agreements have been signed.

[Translation]

Cost of Generation of Nuclear Power

4042. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the per unit cost of electricity generated by the atomic power plants for the use of consumers in the country;

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

(c) the rate at which it is sold to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government assesses all elements of tariff for electricity from nuclear power plants including the cost of production before notifying it. The notified tariff is the maximum rate at which electricity can be sold.

(c) The power produced by the nuclear power stations is supplied to the Regional Electricity Grids and sold at the notified tariffs to the State Electricity Boards/Utility and Transmission Companies based on the allocation by Ministry of Power. The current average nuclear power tariff is about 230 paise per kWh. The State Electricity Boards/Utility and Transmission Companies in turn, sell electricity from all sources, including nuclear, to the ultimate consumers.

[English]

WLL Technology at Tirupur

4043. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that BSNL CDMA wireless-in local-loop technology has not yet been provided at Tirupur; and

(b) if so, the time by which this technology is likely to be provided by the BSNL at Tirupur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, 5000 lines CDMA Wireless-in-Local-Loop (WLL) technology has already been commissioned in Tirupur in Tamil Nadu Circle on 4th September, 2003. In addition 2 numbers of 750 lines each of MSC based CDMA WLL Base Transceiver Stations were commissioned during March, 2006 in Tirupur at Somanur and Perunallur.

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

Private Companies to Explore and Mine Coal/Lignite

4044. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee of Group of Ministers was set up to facilitate Private companies to explore and mine coal and lignite with the existing restrictions relating to captive mining;

(b) if so, whether the GoM has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether various trade unions have opposed this step of the Government;

(e) if so, the reasons for their opposition; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to bring about consensus on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (f) The Central Government had sought to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 with a view to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to undertake exploration of coal in the country, in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal. Accordingly, a Bill, namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000. The Rajya Sabha referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Energy for study and its recommendation. The Committee submitted its report. Introduction of the Amendment Bill in Parliament evoked a strong reaction and the Trade Unions threatened to go on strike. A Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted on 11.12.2000. The terms of reference of GOM included, *inter-alia*, the demand for withdrawal of pending Bill from Parliament.

A series of meetings were held by GOM as well Ministers in charge of Coal Ministry with the trade unions in this connection. The Trade Unions were assured that the Bill would not be moved without taking them into confidence. The GOM could not finalise its recommendations. With the change of Government, the GOM has ceased to exist.

Pending Interpol References

4045. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to make all efforts for expeditious disposal of pending interpol references in each other's country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) In the second round of Central Bureau of Investigation (India) – Federal Investigation Agency (Pakistan) Technical Level Talks held on March 21 and 22, 2006 in New Delhi, it was agreed that all efforts will be made by both sides for expeditious disposal of pending Interpol references. A decision was also taken to have periodical meetings at short intervals between the Interpol nodal points.

Entry of Illegal Post

4046. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in *The Business Line* dated April 24, 2006 regarding crack down on illegal post entering the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has enquired into the illegal post entering the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the entry of illegal post in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Business Line* dated 24th April, 2006 regarding crack down on illegal post entering the country. The source of this information has not been indicated in the news item therefore the Department is not in a position to obtain further details from the concerned source.

However, it is submitted that possibilities of consignments of mail from and for foreign countries and for India being injected into India Post network cannot be ruled out.

Inquiry in such matter is taken up only if such a consignment comes to notice. There have been two cases noticed. One in West Bengal Circle in which the Hon'ble High Court has upheld the stand of the Department of Post with regard to recovery of the difference in postage and cost involved and the other in Andhra Pradesh which is under inquiry. The cases which come to notice will be taken up for inquiry.

Supply of Uranium to Nuclear Power Station

4047. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear power stations in the country are not operating with their 100 per cent capacity utilization due to constraints in uranium supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the capacity at which they are operating at present; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Out of the 15 nuclear power reactors in operation in the country, two reactors, Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1 & 2 (2 x 160 MWe) are operating at full capacity. Other 13 reactors are Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) and are being operated at normative capacity due to temporary demand - supply mismatch of natural uranium.

(b) Tarapur Atomic Power Station-4 (540 MWe) and Madras Atomic Power Station-1 (220 MWe) are operating at 90% capacity. Nine reactors of 220 MWe are operating at 70%. Two reactors Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1 & Narora Atomic Power Station-1 are shut down for refurbishment.

(c) Uranium Corporation of India Limited is now operating four underground mines producing uranium ore to meet the requirement. New mines have also been planned in six more areas of which work at two sites has already been taken up. Adequate reserves have been identified by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research in different parts of the country. Techno-feasibility of opening new mines in these areas is also looked into. These measures have been initiated to augment supply to meet the projected requirement of fuel for the Atomic Energy Programme.

Reducing Subsidies to Postal Services

4048. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices operating in rural and urban areas, State-wise;

(b) the target set and actual achievements of rural post offices in the business of rural life insurance and postal saving banking during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review policy relating to reducing subsidies to postal services so that it could generate its own resources to survive and strengthen its services of Postal Saving Bank and Postal Life Insurance in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There were 1,55,516 post offices operating in rural and urban areas as on 31.3.2005. Out of these, there were 1,39,120 post offices operating in rural areas and 16,396 post offices in urban areas. State/Circle-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Data relating to Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) is given in the enclosed statement-II. Available data relating to Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) is given in the enclosed statement-III. It is pertinent to mention here that both these data are given Circle-wise as collected, and not disaggregated (in the case of POSB) for urban and rural areas.

(c) and (d) The subsidy largely arises out of the fact that the Department has a social obligation in extending its services, at subsidized cost to it, across the country to urban, rural, tribal, remote hilly, desert and other areas. The services and products for the common man are priced so as to be affordable. Details of revenue, expenditure and deficit in the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as below:

Item (Rs. in crores)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Revenue	3697.11	4009.65	4256.93
Expenditure	5108.62	5374.05	5632.15
Deficit	1411.51	1364.40	1375.22

It will be seen that the deficit has been more or less constant, despite the fact that salaries went up with increase in Dearness Allowance from 38% to 61% in this period. The Department also absorbs pension payments to its past employees, which amounted to Rs. 1107 crores in 2003-04, unlike most other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government. The Department of Posts has a policy to focus on increasing revenue by strengthening all its services including POSB and Postal Life Insurance, and, as a result, its revenue has increased from Rs. 3697.11 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 4256.93 crores in 2003-04.

Statement I

Circle/State-wise number of Rural and Urban Post Offices as on 31-3-2005

S.No.	Circle	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14843	1348
2.	Assam	3708	298
3.	Bihar	8622	432
4.	Chhattisgarh	2916	209
5.	Delhi	81	496
6.	Gujarat	8189	739
	Daman, D.N. Haveli	52	5
7.	Haryana	2329	320
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2658	122
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1480	210
10.	Jharkhand	2777	272
11.	Karnataka	8586	1291
12.	Kerala	4197	871
	Lakshadweep	10	0
	Mahe (Pondicherry)	0	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7473	872
14.	Maharashtra	11294	1409
	Goa	204	54

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
15.	N.E.			18.	Rajasthan	9659	783
	Arunachal Pradesh	284	19	19.	Tamil Nadu	10153	1948
	Manipur	686	12		Pondicherry	58	37
	Meghalaya	460	33	20.	Uttaranchal	2496	225
	Mizoram	338	67	21.	Uttar Pradesh	15697	1961
	Nagaland	299	29	22.	West Bengal	7639	1113
	Tripura	648	69		A.N. Islands	89	12
16.	Orissa	7572	589		Sikkim	197	13
17.	Punjab	3426	534		Total	139120	16396

Statement II*Targets and Actual Achievements of Rural Post Offices in the Business of RPLI in the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	2003-2004 Target and Achievements Rs. in crores		2004-2005 Target and Achievements Rs. in crores		2005-2006 Target and Achievements Rs. in crores	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	830	744	2000	796	2000	1442
2.	Assam	60	33	100	49	100	30
3.	Bihar	500	601	1000	604	1000	514
4.	Chhattisgarh	300	159	320	82	150	38
5.	Gujarat	300	204	500	252	500	250
6.	Haryana	250	163	300	95	250	146
7.	Himachal Pradesh	50	45	100	92	100	74
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	100	59	100	84	100	42
9.	Jharkhand	20	30	100	41	100	124
10.	Karnataka	275	183	500	161	500	424
11.	Kerala	280	299	580	337	550	209
12.	Maharashtra	1000	1126	2000	1601	2000	2013

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	480	343	650	211	800	246
14.	North-East	30	15	50	12	50	8
15.	Orissa	130	126	300	219	250	262
16.	Punjab	475	151	300	58	200	110
17.	Rajasthan	200	193	400	186	350	328
18.	Tamil Nadu	1000	528	2000	946	2000	1574
19.	Uttar Pradesh	500	518	1050	716	1050	1195
20.	Uttaranchal	200	156	350	180	350	203
21.	West Bengal	200	273	600	476	600	578
Total		7160	5949	13300	7208	13000	9809

Statement III

Total Amount Mobilized in Small Savings by Union Government year-wise & State-wise during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5895.91	7488.1	9678.4
2.	Bihar	4490.09	5146.34	5264.32
3.	Jharkhand	2118.01	2498.2	2668.57
4.	Base	528.14	1057.7	665.22
5.	Delhi	5704.57	7211.2	10092.82
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	969.92	1280.77	1316.58
7.	Karnataka	4611.59	5960.56	8358.13
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3585.55	4361.34	5421.02
9.	Chhattisgarh	1171.52	1417.14	1733.46
10.	Orissa	1883.77	2432.29	2703.75
11.	Rajasthan	6559.7	7491.23	9472.88
12.	Uttar Pradesh	12382.17	15054.07	15393.68

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Uttaranchal	1355.99	1855.46	2009.63
14.	Haryana	3384.49	4369.41	4886.8
15.	Tamil Nadu	5873.1	7806.06	11206.71
16.	Pondicherry	147.848	254.44	269.34
17.	Maharashtra	13960.33	17696.45	24361.39
18.	Goa	392.24	78.82	718.01
19.	Gujarat	10547.89	13886.37	16297.68
20.	Daman	7.056	10.46	17.51
21.	Diu	7.53	9.3	16.18
22.	Kerala	2891.06	4346.39	5981.89
23.	Lakshadweep	0.93	1.04	1.39
24.	Punjab	5877.86	7790.01	8683.99
25.	Chandigarh	207.61	283.11	436.77
26.	Himachal Pradesh	1237.57	1704.23	1957.73
27.	West Bengal	14871.94	18060.73	18775.94
28.	Sikkim	32.244	69.905	52.563
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.94	27.81	26.76
30.	Assam	1882.37	2334.49	2507.75
31.	Manipur	72.165	66.85	79.03
32.	Meghalaya	107.5365	141.09	144.25
33.	Tripura	311.1125	391.03	384.7
34.	Mizoram	48.602	70.906	85.18
35.	Nagaland	27.294	39.86	37.17
36.	Arunachal Pradesh	42.368	55.253	77.44
Total		113205	142748.4	171754.6

Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project

4049. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project to provide a direct

navigable route within Indian territorial waters between the country's East and West coasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the coastal areas of the country likely to be benefited on account of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project envisages cutting of a ship channel to connect the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal through Palk Bay and Palk Strait so that most of the ships, depending on draft required, moving between the east and the west coast of India, could have a continuous navigable sea route around the Peninsula within India's own territorial waters. The channel will save upto 424 nautical miles of navigable distance and upto 30 hours of sailing time for ships sailing between the east and the west coast of the country. The entire coast is expected to witness spurt in economic growth.

Schemes for Gram Panchayat

4050. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rights of the Pradhans, Members of the Development Committees and the District Councils under the three tier system of Panchayati Raj;

(b) the details of the schemes available and the money being provided under each scheme for the development of Gram Panchayat;

(c) whether the development works under the said schemes have not taken place in a satisfactory manner in Karnataka during the last three years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Article 243C(4) provides that the Chairperson of a Panchayat and other members of a Panchayat, whether or not chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area, shall have the right to vote in the meetings of the Panchayats. Article 243G further provides that it is for the State legislatures to frame laws with provisions for devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to:

(i) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(ii) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Article 243ZD provides for the constitution of District Planning Committees 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, in consultation with such institutions and organizations as the Governor may, by order, specify, and to forward development plan to the Government of the State. There are Panchayats at the district level but no District Councils under the three tier system of Panchayati Raj. Part IX of the Constitution does not apply to Sixth Schedule areas where there is provision for the constitution of Districts Councils.

(b) Funds are allotted for the development of Panchayats under the Sampooma Grameen Rojgar Yojana and Finance Commission Grants. The XII Finance Commission has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 20,000 crores, payable over the 5 year period 2005-10, to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana, during the year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 2897.50 crore has been allocated to the States/UTs and at least 50 per cent of this allocated amount is required to be spent by the Gram Panchayats.

There are a number of major programmes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, the Drinking Water Mission and Total Sanitation Campaign of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, National Rural Health Mission of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana of the Ministry of Power, which are directed to benefit the rural population. The details of the amounts spent under each for the development of Gram Panchayats would be available with the States. Based on the information received from the Government of Karnataka, the details of the schemes available and the money being provided under each scheme for the development of Gram Panchayats in Karnataka are as follows:

Sl. No.	The Details of the Schemes	Money provided in Year 2005-06 (Plan Budget) (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Forest	140.80
2.	Bonded labour	61.30
3.	Area development and Self Employment Programme (SGSY, DRDA Administration, WGDP, DPAP, DDP & IWDP)	15821.34
4.	Minor Irrigation	12427.74
5.	Art, Culture and Library	185.82
6.	Housing	22548.64
7.	Rural Employment Programmes	14964.08
8.	Grants to Gram Panchayats	32042.02
9.	Water Shed Development	2793.44
10.	Rural Water Supply	52865.94
11.	Rural Energy Programmes	1239.10
12.	Welfare of SCs (Construction of hostel buildings)	1200.00
13.	Roads and Bridges	2224.41

(c) As per information given by the Government of Karnataka, development works in Karnataka under the schemes mentioned in Part (b) have been implemented in a satisfactory manner.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

MoU with Republic of Korea

4051. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to Union Government to sign Memorandum of Understanding with Gyeonggi Provincial Government of Republic of Korea regarding mutual cooperation in Industrial Sector for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the approval has been accorded; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for signing an 'Economic and Cultural Cooperation Agreement' with the Gyeonggi Province of the Republic of Korea. The agreement is in the nature of establishing sisterhood/twinning relationship directed towards cooperation in the development of industry and infrastructure, as well as, in the areas of culture and tourism.

(c) and (d) The proposal is being examined within the framework of the existing policy guidelines on this subject.

Closing Down of Circus Reactor

4052. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed to close down Cirus reactor of Canadian design following an agreement with USA; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Separation plan that has been prepared as a part of discussions on Indo-US' civil nuclear cooperation envisages that CIRUS reactor will be shutdown in the year 2010.

(b) CIRUS has all along been a facility to support research for peaceful application of atomic energy. Since, the CIRUS reactor is located at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a strategic facility, external safeguards inspection cannot be allowed.

Fillip to Textile Industry through IT

4053. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Information Technology is in the process of preparing a proposal aimed at addressing the IT needs of the small and medium players in the textile industry;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said proposal;

(c) whether the overall textile industry was about 40 \$ billion in the country during 2004 and the DIT intends to further give a fillip to its huge potential market;

(d) if so, whether the role of textile research associations of various regions would be crucial in promoting research and development in electronics in a region specific manner;

(e) if so, whether it is likely to be funded by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. However, Department of Information Technology (DIT) has recently received a project proposal entitled Study on the Application of Information Technology in Textile Industry

pertaining to SME Sector from the South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), Coimbatore, Tamilnadu requesting financial assistance for the project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) According to the report entitled "The Textile Turnaround 2004-05" of the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, the Ministry of Textiles has, *inter-alia*, set the following target to be achieved in a 5 year period:

Upgradation of the technology of the industry for achieving a growth of the textile economy from the current \$37 billion to \$85 billion by 2010.

The DIT promotes application of Electronics/ Information Technology in various industrial sectors including Textile to achieve benefits like increase in productivity, quality, safety, etc. With these objectives, the Department has been supporting various development/ application projects at the regional Textile Research Associations (TRAs) like the Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Ahmedabad Textiles Industries Research Association (ATIRA), the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) and also at some of the educational/R&D institutions. The Department has continuous interactions with these agencies which results in specific project proposals being submitted to the Department from these organisations from time to time. The Department evaluates and screens these proposals according to an established procedure and financial assistance is provided to those proposals which are finally approved by the Ministry.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Lands for National Highway No. 76

4054. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lands have been acquired to carry out the work of four-laning of National Highway No. 76;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company that has been awarded the contract for the said work has started construction without paying compensation for the acquired lands;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which compensation for the acquired lands is likely to be paid?

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

(b) The details of land acquired for 4 laning of NH-76 are as under:

Project	Land Acquired (in Hect.)	
	Private	Govt.
Golden Quadrilateral	353.75	138.47
East West Corridor	1177.48	1131.71

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The contractor has started work on the land for which compensation has either been paid to the land owner or it has been deposited with the concerned Competent Authority (LA) (generally SDM level officer of the concerned district) for disbursement to the land owner as per provision of National Highways Act, 1956.

(e) The compensation is likely to be paid by August 2006, except in those cases which are under arbitration/litigation.

[English]

Visit of Sleuths of Pakistan's FIA

4055. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sleuths of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) visited India to interact with their counterparts in the Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As a follow up to the Home/Interior Secretary Level Meeting held in August, 2005 in New Delhi, Technical

level Talks were held between CBI and FIA on 21-22 March, 2006 in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) Both sides identified human trafficking, illegal immigration and counterfeit currency as areas of mutual cooperation.

Disinvestment of Inland Water Transport Corporation

4056. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is proposed to be disinvested;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the disinvestment is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) It has been proposed to transfer Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) alongwith its existing manpower (371 employees), assets and liabilities to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. Thereafter, CIWTC is proposed to be disinvested in favour of private parties after restructuring of balance-sheet and successful implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to bring down the manpower level of CIWTC excluding RBD to 43 from the existing level of 1080 employees.

The transfer of RBD to GRSE is expected to take effect by 1st June, 2006. The process for disinvestment of CIWTC minus RBD is likely to commence thereafter.

[Translation]

Cases Registered against Officials of Private Hospitals/CGHS

4057. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered cases against the senior officials of big private hospitals and CGHS as reported in *The Rashtriya Sahara* dated February 16, 2006;

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

(c) the names of the private hospitals and health officials against whom the CBI filed cases;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such private hospitals/officials; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to monitor and check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed that a regular case has been registered for investigation against Dr. Madhuri Sharma, the then Additional Deputy Director General (M), Dr. Urmil Mahajan, the then Joint Director, CGHS(M), Dr. S. Chugh, the then HOD (Medicine), Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. A.N. Sinha, the then HOD(Surgery), Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, and the Management of the concerned hospitals namely Dr. Vinay Sabharwal, Proprietor, Jeevan Mala Hospital & Nursing Home New Delhi, Dr. Ashok Singh, Partner of Shree Ram Singh Hospital & Heart Institute, New Delhi, Dr. Ayush Gupta, Managing Director, Kesar Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Hari Mohan, Director of Mohan Eye Institute, New Delhi, Dr. Bhim Sen Bansal, Chairman & MD of R.G. Stone Urological Research Institute, New Delhi and other unknown persons for irregularities in empanelment of private hospitals for CGHS. Action to be taken against the above named persons and institutes would depend upon the report of the CBI. For the future, the Government has decided that inspections of private hospitals and diagnostic centres for empanelment with CGHS would not be conducted in house but through professional bodies like the Quality Council of India.

[English]

Clearance to Uranium Based Projects

4058 SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of uranium-based projects currently functioning in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether environmental clearance has been accorded for some pending projects;

(c) if so, whether the impact of such projects on human health and the adverse impact on the surrounding

has been examined before giving clearance to such projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Nuclear power reactors in the first stage of our nuclear power programme are based on uranium fuel in different forms. There are 15 nuclear power reactors in operation and 8 under construction at seven locations in the country. The details are:

Location	In operation No. of units (MWe)	Under Construction No. of units (MWe)
Tarapur, Maharashtra	3 (860)	1 (540)
Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	4 (740)	2 (440)
Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	2 (440)	1 (500)
Narora, Uttar Pradesh	2 (440)	—
Kakrapar, Gujarat	2 (440)	—
Kaiga, Karnataka	2 (440)	2 (440)
Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	—	2 (2000)

(b) The environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for the stations in operation/projects under construction has been obtained. The clearance process in respect of new sites has been initiated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess the impact of the project on the environment and population in the surrounding areas is conducted by an independent professional agency. This is followed by a Public hearing, clearance from the respective State Pollution Control Board etc. The clearance is accorded by the MoEF based on recommendation of an Expert Appraisal Committee, which carries out a detailed appraisal of environmental impact.

Purchase of Stationery and General Items

4059. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoP&T has invited a tender for the purchase of stationery and general items;

(b) if so, the details of the tenderers who participated in the tender together with the prices/brands offered by them;

(c) whether the tender has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Statement

Details of Tenderers Participated in Tenders Together with their Prices/Brands

Sl.No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enterprises	Chadha Station-ers	Vishal Enter-prises	W/o Fin. Coop. sectors	R.K. Traders	Vivek Enter.	V.S.M.	Tripuri Hand-made Paper Ind.	Melody Home	Bhasat Trading Co.	Goyal Station-ers	Rajdhani Elect.	K.B.	Taran Traders	Nash Sons	Lakshmi Sales Corpn.	P.A. Sales	Deshi Papers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Paper Fax Roll	53.50	44.50 30 mtr.	52.00	67.00 30 mtr.	40/- 30 mt.	55/51.50(30 mtr.)	-	40-	93/- 30 mtr.	58.20	75/- each	55.90/- 30m 92.40 50M	48/-30 78/-50 mtr.	58/-	75/-	80/-	-	
2.	Ball Pen Reynold	4.25	4.20	5.00	3.90	3.90	3.70	3.90	5.35	4.80	4.05	4.32	5/- each	5.30	4/-	3.80	5/-	4/-	-
3.	Pilot Pen 05	19.50	18.90	17.80	18.90	17.90	19.50	17.95	19.75	17.80	19.25	19.40	22/- each	20.15	19.50	18.45	24/-	18.50	-
4.	Pilot Pen V-5	35.00	34.75	32.00	34.15	32.90	35.50	34.10	34.15	34/-	32.75	34.90	25/- each	36.25	35/-	33.45	39/-	32.50	-
5.	Pilot Pen v-7	-	-	32.00	34.15	-	36/-	36.50	-	38/-	-	-	30/- each	-	33.90	51/-	35.50	-	
6.	Pen Uniball eye micro	35.00	33.00	31.20	31.50	31.80	34/-	33/-	72.50	35/-	33/-	34.35	15/- each	-	34/-	34.80	38/-	31.50	-
7.	Pen Ad-gel-500PG	18.50	17.40	16.00	17.90	15.90	17/-	16.95	-	28/(18)	19.25	20.25	22/- each	20.10	17.50	16.85	25/-	19/-	-
8.	Pen Laxi 05	3.20	-	3.10	4.00	3.10	3.30	2.95	-	4.80	3.20	3.22	10/- each	-	3.50	3.20	6/-	3.30	-
9.	Pen Montex Gel-0.5 Gel	6.50	-	15.00	-	12.50	11.50	6.25	-	12.50	7.05	7.15 Murcry	5/- each	-	6.50	7.90 Murcry	25/-	8/-	-
10.	Pen Cello Pointac 0.5 Gel	9.95	9.80	9.80	10.85	9.50	10.25	9.45	-	4.50	10/-	10.25	5/- each	5.50	10.50	10.20	15/-	9.80	-
11.	Pen Holder	42.00 Omega	10.00 Golden	12.00	12.00	9.90	9.85	7.50 6.95	5.75	8.50	12.10	112/- each	15/-	10.40	12/-	9.40	22/-	11/-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
12.	Sketch Luxar	4.25	45.00 each set	13.30 Set	3.00	4.25 each	14/- per set	39.95	1.50 each	12.50 per set	15/- per set	44/- per set	14.20 per set	2/- each Luxor	3.70 each set of 18	39/- thick Pkt. ord	16.20 Pkt. ord	2/-	15/- Pkt	-
13.	Clips Gem (Steel) Box (10) pkt	—	26.50	63.00	22.00	36/-	66/-	28.50	64/-	3.50 per pkt	3.30 per pkt	3.95 per pkt	37.45	-	4/- pkt	44/- globe Box (Box)	120/- Box	40/-	-	
14.	Clips Gem(Plastic) pkt (Box of 10 pkt)	77.00	7.80	8.00	75.00	7/-	85/-	6.30	9.75	7/-	7.70	6.95 per Pkt.	15/- each	6.95	7.40	7.90 Pkt.	12/-	7.10	-	
15.	Cello Tape (Small)	7.50 1.5x6.5	2.90	1.80 1.5x9	1.80	1.90	2.50 10 yd)	3.25	2.50	5/-	2/-	2.15	25/- each	1.40 1/2x9 mtr.	2.50	2.85 1/2x9mtr	6/-	2.20	-	
16.	Brown Tape 2	19.00 2x65	22.75	16.00 2x35	25.00 45 mtr.	14.50	10x3(2") 23x(2)	31.00	35/- 35/0	14/- 1/-	14.50	5/- each	17.80 mmx 50m)	18/-	21.90	45/-	16/-	-		
17.	Candle (12 stick pkt.)	15.00	34.00	42.00	-	31.50	18/- per pkt.	26/-	21/-	22/-	25/-	30/-	15/- each 400 GM	28.70	18/-	36.80	36/-	25/-	-	
18.	Carbon Paper (Pencil)	105.00 Kores	57.50 Kores	102/-	84.00 Kores	84/-	55/- per pkt.	99.50	98/-	98/-	50/-	46.50	40/- each Kores 83.10 Kang	106/- Kores	100/-	88/- Kores	115/-	97/-	-	
19.	Desk calendar plate (kapica)	52.00	28.50 Kabica	34.00	57.00	36.00 Steel	28/-	29.50	48/-	23/-	45/-	54/- Omega	3/-	30.50	37/-	58/-	58/-	51/-	-	
20.	Drawing Pin	8.50 each pkt.	8.00	5.00	3.25	90/- Box	8/- pkt.	7.90	5.50	6/-	5.10	3.26	15/-	-	4/-	5.80	13/-	4.40	-	
21.	Double Punch Machine	35.00 Kangroo	33.00 Kangroo	33.00 Kangaroo	58.50 Kangaroo	31/- Taho	58/- each	54/- Kangaroo	36/- 58/-	38/-	34/-	26.70 Kangroo	95/- Kangroo	52/-	27/-	48/-	45/-	33/-	-	
22.	Envelopes Khaki Se-5 per th.	150.00 Per	130/-	120/0	118/-	130/-	245/-	135/(3 Star)	202/-	160/-	135/-	90/-	3/- each 60 GSM 118/- 80 GSM	124.95	125	164/- without Print	400/-	155/-	-	
23.	-do- SE-6	200.00 80 GSM	165/-	175/-	172.80	165/-	330/-	190/-	246/-	195/-	172/-	118/-	(80) 138/-	(80) each	184.80	180/-	234/- without Print	550/-	200/-	-
24.	-do- Se-7 Yel	800.00	950/-	1125/-	864/-	1040/-	1.40 each	1450/-	501/-	480/-	880/-	805/-	(80)	3/- each	411.80	850/-	895/- without Print	1000/-	1050/-	-
25.	-do- Se-7A Yel.	1260.00	1470/-	1250/-	1404/-	1398/-	1650	2050/-	1225/-	1900/-	1395/-	1630/-	(80)GSM	3/- each	1363.95	1400/-	1490/- without Print	3400/-	14/- each	-
26.	Envelope Khaki SE-8	950/- 80 GSM	580/-	470/-	518.40	580/-	1050/-	525/-	892/-	850/-	580/-	495/-	(80) 585(80)	3/- each	504/-	570/-	635/- without Print	1900/-	6.10	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
27.	-do- Se-8A with cloth	2300/-	1830/-	1575/-	1620/-	1490/-	1250	1660/-	1835/-	2150/-	1670/-1360(60) 1410(80)	3/- each	2142	1750	1790/- without print	3500/-	19-	each	-	
28.	-do-12" x 10"	1050/- 80 GSM	390/-	300/-	324/-	390/-	995/-	380/-"	465/-	650/-	340/-	780/-	15/- each	504/-	400/-	344/- -do-	800/-	4.60	each	-
29.	Envelope white SE-5	300/- -do-	265/-	310/-	216/-	260/-	275/-	320/-"	265/-	350/-	220/-	285/-	15/- each	183/-	290/-	268/- -do-	625/-	260/- per th	-	
30.	-do- SE-6	400/- -do-	315/-	415/-	302.40	290/-	395/-	465/-"	395/-	450/-	375/-	320/-	15/- each	283.50	340/-	378/- -do-	795/-	360/- per thud	-	
31.	-do- post card size	295/-	180/-	198/-	-	225/-	-	225/-"	195/-	200/-	190/-	219/-	15/- each	-	200/-	248/- -do-	250/-	2/- each	-	
32.	Envelopes window SE 5	370/-	320/-	159/-	270/-	320/-	300/-	3707/-"	378/-	190/-	295/-	320/-	15/- each	208.95	340/-	315/- -do-	700/-	3.10	per th	-
33.	-do- SE-6	470/-	370/-	209/-	351/-	350/-	420/-	520/-"	390/-	215/-	425/-	355/-	15/- each	309.75	400/-	415/ --do-	820/-	4/- each	-	
34.	Eraser for pencil	0.95 each pencil	0.90	1.00	0.90 each	0.70	0.85	2.35	2.15	2.50	0.90	1/-	4.50 each	0.70 Natraj	0.85	0.75	1/-	1.20	-	
35.	File board with full flap	4.50	3.00	2.60	3.90	2.95	3.40	2.80	3.88	3.50 4/-	4.50	4.23	75/- each	2.70	4/-	3.40	27.45	3.30	-	
36.	File cover printed	4.503.80 Color	2.25 Khaki	4.00	-	3.25 Colour	3.00	3.10	2.65.335 4.15.475	3.50 4.50	3.50	2.31	95/- each	2.50	3.40	3.45	8/-	6	-	
37.	File flaps	2.50	1.50 each	1.10	0.90	1.20	1.50	1.001.15	1.351.00	1.20	1.25	1.27	20/- each	-	1.90	120	5/-	1.80	-	
38.	Floppy 3.5" Mosaer Baer	85.00	74.00	74.00	77.90	76.50	94/- Sony	88.50	85/-	98/-	75/- Amkette	14/- each	8/- each	82.20	80/- pkt	104/-	95/- Box of 10	66/-	-	
39.	Gum bottle 700 ml	37.50 Camel	13.00 Hans	26.00 Kores	13.00 National	16.50	10/-	29.50	19.50	11.50	12.50 Nationa	12.95	35/- each	1130	14/-	10.40	33/-	16/-	-	
40.	-do- 110 ml	14.00	4.40 -do-	11.00 Koras	6.50	4.80	4.95	11.30	6.25	5.50	5.70 -do-	4.80	15/- each	4.50	6.50	3.90	16/-	5/-	-	
41.	Gum Tube 30 ml	4.25 National	4.30	4.30	-	6/-	-	4.20	7.75	23/-	3.20 Vami	4.20 Kores	10/- each	4.20	4.50	-	9/-	4/-	-	
42.	-do-kores 30 ml	4.00	7.50	3.40	4.65	15.20 15gm	-	3.10	-	26/-	4/-	4.20 Kores	18/- each	-	4/- Camel	4.50 National	4.50	5/-	-	
43.	Glass Table 3' x 2'	300/-	160/-	210/- (6mm)	-	220/-	225/-	434/- per Sq Mtr.	-	170/-	180/- (5mm)	288/-	245/- each	307.75	270/-	194/- 5mm	540/-	160/- (4mm)	-	
44.	-do- 2' x 1.5'	150/-	85/-	180/- (6mm)	-	190/-	115/-	-do-	-	78/-	90/- (5mm)	144/-	275/- each	153.90	135/-	138/- 5mm	275/-	140/- (4mm)	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
45.	Ink white fluids	12.00 Single	17.50 Kores	18.00	17.95 Kores	16.30 Kozas	17.80	17.10	-	15/-	18/-	18.70	30/- each	17.10 Camel	13.50	18.20 set	13/-	19/-	-
46.	Ink stamp Pad	6.50	5.50	4.90	7.55	6.80	5/-	7.10 Supreme	2.95	8/-	5.25	4.90	-	10.10	5.50 supreme	5.20	10/-	5.50	-
47.	Machine Stapler 24/6 (Big)	65.00 Kangroo	35.50 kangroo	38.00	38.95 Kangroo	29.50	41/-	38/- Kangroo	86/-	-	41/- Kangro	35.40	40/- each	39/- Kangaro	48/-	47.50	52/-	40/-	-
48.	-do- No. 10 (Small)	18.00 Kangroo	18.50 Kangroo	16.50	17.95	18.00	17/-	31.10 Kangroo	18.50	-18.25	-do-	15.85	250/- each	35/- Kangaro	19.50	17.20 Kangro	24/-	17/-	-
49.	Needles	2.00	2.00	1.00	50/- Kg.	2.40	8/-	1.10	8.50 pkt.	8/-	8/-	2.90	75/- each	-	2.50	9/-	80/- Box	5/-	-
50.	Green Note sheet (good quality) 80g	32.00	24.00	28.00	29.00	24.50	32/-	26.50	32.50	23.80	27/-	29/- Balla 23.80 (Satta)	50/- each	24/- each	25/- 100 Sheet	24.90 each	45/- 100 Sheet	23.50	-
51.	Short Hand note book	8.50	6.00	6.30	7.00	6.40	5.80	6.25	5.25	6.80	8/-	5.80	20/- each	5.50	6.50	6.40	11/-	8/-	-
52.	Punch Single	25.00	26.00 Kangroo	23.80	25.25	24.50	28/-	23.10	36/-	15.00	26.50	25.85	45/-23.80(K) each	24/-	26.40(K) 25.80 Max	34/-	24/-	-	-
53.	Pen stand four socket (without pen)	175/- Kabica	75/- 105/- 160/-	68.00	108/- Acrylic	70/-	165/-	135/-	65/- 82/- & 115/-	110/-	175/-	112/-	-	164.55	85/- Kabica	63.40 without pen	160/-	85/-	-
54.	-do- two socket	85.00 -do-	40.00 80.00	60.00	70.00	82/-	85/-	48/-	55/-, 68/- & 87/-	80/-	98/-	78/- each	215-	78.20	54/- do-	53.40	90/-	62/-	-
55.	Pen Highlighter	15.00	11.80 each	14.20 each	17.20	13.30	14.85	13.10 each	-	14.50	14.50	14.20	-	80.70 pkt	15/-	65/- set	19/-	72/- set of 5 pcs	-
56.	Paper cutter	7.50	6.00 each	16.50	14.00	9.80	12/-	13/-	9.25	8.50	17/-	12.40	15/- each	12.45	12/-	9.90	25/-	12/-	-
57.	Dak Pad	20.00	12.00 each	10.75	19.00	12.80	13.85	23/- Neel Gagan	18.25	18.50	11.50	13.20	425/- each	21.25 Neelgaga	13.50	12.40	27/-	12/-	-
58.	Dak Signature	22.00	10.50	10.75	14.60	11.50	13.99	18.50 -do-	19.25	19.50	11.50	14.90	530/- each	14.35 Neel	13.50	11.90	50/-	11/-	-
59.	Pin Cushion	6.00	8.00	6.50	6.50	9.40	9.50	9.50	8.75	8.50	10/-	6.20 each	5/-	8.15	8.80	8.40	18/-	9/-	-
60.	Pin Packet (Awl/Pin)	5.50	7.00	6.30	5.50	6.20	6.00	5.50	8.25	6.50	8/-	4.95	40/- each	8.15	6/-	6.70	14/-	6.10	-
61.	Pad Stamping	8.75 Supreme	9.00	8.00	7.80	9.80	7.70	7.98	7.85	25/-	8/-	8.45	45/- each	10.10	8/-	8.40	16/-	8/-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
62.	Pocket	9.00	10.00	7.90	5.95	10/-	10	9.10	4.25	8/-	5.50	6.38	-	7.65	4/-	5.90 ord.	24/-	7/-	
											Wooden	Steel				12.40			
																steel			
63.	Pencil Faber Castle	18.00	-	18.00	-	40/-	24.50	16/-	-	2.25	18/-	1.72	15/-	17/-	25/-	-	24/-	8/-	
							17.00			each	each	each	pkt					each	
64.	Pencil Natraj (HB)	18.00	1.85	18.00	16.50	16.50	1.85	16/-	21.75	1.80	17/-	1.86	5/-	15.80	17.50	1.84	24/-	1.70	-
			each				each			each		each	each	pkt.		each		each	
65.	Pencil Reporter	2.50	2.20	2.20	-	3.00	-	2.25	-	2.50	3.40	2.42	3/-	-	2.80	2.80	2.50	6/-	
										each			each		each			each	
66.	Paper weight	6.00	5.00	5.50	9.00	5.80	4.85/-S	4.90	4.50	6.50	8/-	5.35	-	3.90	8/-	6.40	11/-	7/-	-
			(plastic)				8.00-B		(Glass)										
									5.25(Pla)										
67.	Paper Typing	100/-	80.00	58.00	70/-	62/-	60/-	72.50	55/-	62/-	62/-	59/-	2.5	-	70/-	64/-	85/-	65/-	75/-
			(A-4)										Each						8"x13"
68.	Paper Fastner	2-1.75	-	90.00		80/-	-	120/-	-			15.55	30/-	-	24/-	-	45/-		-
		3-1.85"		per				Box				(2Nos)	each						
		4-1.95"		Box															
69.	Paper Ruled	275/-(FS)	120/-	215/-	157/-	135/-	150/-	114/-	-	150/-	170/-	135/-	100/-	154.45	220/-	189/-	195/-	180/-	175/-
		500 sheets					(10x26)						pkt.	(500 sheet)					per
																			team
																			13"x
																			16"
70.	Pen & Pencil Tray	20.00	16.00	13.00	35	28/-	54/-	14/-	22/-	23/-	17/-	11.80	95/-	25.90	15/-	24/-	32/-	30/-	
													each						
71.	Paper Craft (good quality)	2125/-	695/-	1500/-(3.00	-	680/-	600/-	1050/-	865/-	1900/-	1250/-	1260/-	-	-	650/-	1100/-	850/-	45/-	1025/-
		Ream	each sheet)						29x44	Ream	Ream			Ream	Ream	(480 sheet)	each sheet	80 gam	1275/-
																	sheet	sheet	100 gam
72.	Plastic Folder	6.50	5.00	5.50	8.70	4.80	7.25	4.75	5.95	10/-	6/-(L	4.95	40/-pkt	9/-	3.50	6.40	6/-	6/-	
			7.00					9/ Neel			type)	(ord.)	Neel G						
								Gagan				6.35							
												supr							
73.	Refill Reynold	3.25	3.30	2.50	-	1.80	8.75	-	3.50	5.60	-	3.12	45/-	2.70	-	2.95	4.50	3/-	-
												Rey.	each						
74.	Refill Cello Pointeck 05	7.50	6.50	6.20	6.70	4.50	6.70	6/-		320	6.75	6.85	95/-each	3.10	6.50	6.90	10/-	6/-	
75.	-do- Add-Gel PG 500	7.50	10.50 & 8.50	6.50	10.50	8.50	9.75	10/-	-	9.50	11/-	11.35	5/-each	12/-	11.50	7.40	14/-	14/-	-
76.	-do-Jotter	5.00	Flair	4.50	4.80	4.20	4.90	4.20	5.50	5.50	6.80	5/-	4.15	5/-	4.50	5.20	6.70	7/-	5.50
													each						
77.	Ruler plastic	4.50	Detx.	4.00	4.00	3.30	3.70	3.60	3.50	503.75	5/-	4.50	3.984	5/-each	3.65	4.50	6.20	8/-	5.50
78.	Rubber bands	85.00	80.00	83.50	21.05	95/-	88/-	80/-	98/-	30	110/-	90/-	5/-	104.65	24/-	108/-	110/-	90-kg	
					per Pkt			per Kg		per pkt.			each	kg	pkt				
79.	Sealing wax	45.00	19.00	14.00	23/-	14/-	10/-	13.80	25/-	18.50	13/-	21/-	10/-	29.90	18/-	18.40	18/-	13/-	
													pkt		Pkt	pkt	pkt	Pkt	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
80.	Slip Book (Printed)	-	-	40.00	-	9.30 (40 sheet)	-	8/- 40 page	7.25 5/-, 10.50 13.50, 22/-	-	4.50 (ord) 6.90 supr	-	4.85 40 sheet	9.50	9.40 70 sheet	30/-	40/- each	-	-
81.	Scissors Small	12.00	17.50	10.00	25/-	18/-	13.50	23.50	14.50	13.50	21/(5")	17.50	-	20.23	35/-	54/-	30/-12/-	each	-
82.	Sullii Jute	40.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	35/-	31/-	32/-	-	65/-	35/-	25/-each	34	-	35/-	58/-	38/-	90/-kg	-
83.	Sharpner (good quality) Natraj (Blitoo)	2.50	1.90	2.50	3.78	2.10	2.45	3.95	3.65	3/-	2.50 each	2.55	75/- each	3.40	3.25	2.60	5/-	3.50	-
84.	Safety Match Box	5.00	6.00	5.00 (10)	4.60	6.00	5/-	4.50	5.25	4.50	5/-	10/- Gola	5.77	4.80	-	5/-	1/- each	-	-
85.	File Tray Plastic	75.00	29.50	28.00	32.40	36/-	90/-	24/-	28/-	23.50	30/-	25.40	10/- each	37.85	23/-	34/-	40/-	40/-	-
86.	Staple Pins 24/6	8.00	5.50	5.50	6.50	6/-	6.50	5.90	6.70	6.50	9/- Kangroo	6/-	5.98 15/- each	5.70 Max	5.90	6.20	8.50	6/- each	-
87.	-do- No.10	4.50	3.50	3.20	3.25	3.10	3.25	3.40	4.15	6/-	3.30 -do-	3.58	15/- each	4.15	3.50	3.90	4.75	3.50 each	-
88.	Tags good quality	45.00	44.00	39.00 (800 tags)	36/-	35/-	0.05 Paise each tag	80/-	6.50	42/-	35/- 800 Pcs	66/-	-	51.21	48/-	64/-	90/-	100/- (per 100)	-
89.	Thread ball	12.00	16.00	7.50 each per box (1x4)	7/-	4.80	80/- per kg	6.50	8.50	6.50	6/-	4.90	-	8.20	7/-	29.40	18/-	5/-	-
90.	Waste paper bkt.	18.00	25.00 38.50	31.00	35.90	45/-	32/-	35/-	15/-	22/-	35/-	45.50	55/- each	49.50	22/-	34.50 Big 18.40 Smal	47/-	30/-	-
91.	Gum Stick Pads																		
	2x3	15.00	9.00	14.00	13/-	8/-	8.65	19.50	29/-	23/-	13.20	8.95	20/- each	21.80	15/-	24/-	23/-	9/-	-
	3x3	18.00	13.50	16.00	16.20	12/-	14/-	27.50	-	33/-	16.50	13.70	20/- each	30.10	17/-	29.80	31/-	20/-	-
	3x4	25.00	20.50	22.50	22.70	16/-	-	38/-	-	38/-	22.00	17.95	20/- each	41.90	22/-	42.10	45/-	25/-	-
	3x5	40.00	26.50	26.00	26/-	20/-	23.80	46/-	-	-	26.40	22.95	20/- each	50/-	25/-	48.50	55/-	40/-	-
92.	Colour flag 1x3	15.00	19.00	16.00	14/-	12.90	8.00 14.50	23/-	-	22/-	14.50	17.80	3/- each	43.10	18/-	26.50	28/-	60/-	-
93.	-do- 20mm x 50mm (100 Pcs)	10.00	-	20.00	18/-	-	-	15/- 100Pcs	-	20/-	-	-	5/- each	32/-	-	45/-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
94.	-do- 0.5 x 1.7	35.00 pkt.	-	32.00	-	32/-	25/-	35/-	-	18/-	40.15 3m	48.50	8/- each	-	32/-	58/-	35/-	110/-	-
95.	Plastic folders. (solo) A-4 size	23.00 RF- 101	5.00 each	5.00 CH-100	1 5.85 (ch- 101)	4.90	5.40 19.50	78/-	-11.50,18.5	-	79.80	75/- each	-	70/-	6.40	7/-	62/-	-	-
96.	-do- FS size	30.00 RF- 111	6.90	6.00	6.75 (ch-111)	6.90	6.25 25.10	86/-	38	-	99.50	60/- each	-	80/-	7.40	8/-	84/-	-	-
97.	White Fluid Pen (Uni)	65.00 Koras 55.00	33.00	34.00	35.50 Koras	38/-	49.50	48/-	-	58/-	25 oddy	36.90 Koras	65/- each	24.10 Addgal	46/-	-	55/-	25/-	-

Comparative Statement of Computer Ink Cartridge

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Business Aid Enterprises	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stores	R.K. Traders.	Vivek Ensp.	V.S.M.	Melody Home	Bhanu Trd Comp.	K.B. Md. Asst. Traders	Shakti Traders	Tarun Sons	Nath Sales Corp.	Lakshmi Sales Corp.	P.A. Sales Corp.	Arvika (Amit Product only)
1.	HP Ink cartridge, 6615-d	1035/-	945/-(HP) 710/-Amit	990/-	998.15	984/-	1065/-	936/-	1180/-	1010/-	987.25	943/-	1070/-	1108/-	1225/-	959/-	710/-
2.	-do- 6578-d	1355/-	1310/-(HP) 985/-Amit	1298/-	1339.00	1340/-	1400/-	1297/-	1550/-	1315/-	1337.70	1230/-	1370/-	1446.50	1590/-	1249/-	-
3.	-do- 1823-	1215/-	1210/-	1161/-	1236.05	1180/-	1274/-	1198/-	1380/-	1185/-	1236.75	1108/-	1250/-	1303.50	1436/-	1125/-	-
4.	-do- 6625	1288/-	1246/-	1229/-	1273.05	1235/-	1322/-	1233/-	1380/-	1255/-	1272.04	1173/-	1325/-	1380.00	1520/-	1189/-	-
5.	-do- 6656	860/-	845/-(HP) 639/- Amit	823/-	899.30	825/-	885/-	843/-	980/-	798/-	869.25	784/-	900/-	822.00	1020/-	798/-	610/-
6.	-do- 6657	1432/-	1415/-(HP) 1075/- Amit	1367/-	1452.30	1352/-	1480/-	1408/-	1620/-	1325/-	1452.35	1305/-	1480/-	1520.00	1620/-	1395/-	-
7.	-do- 51826	1082/-	1055/-	1043/-	1081.50	1050/-	1139/-	1048/-	1330/-	1065/-	1080.95	995/-	1145/-	1168.00	1290/-	1009/-	-
8.	-do- 51829	1082/-	1055/-(HP) 795/- Amit	1043/-	1081.50	1040/-	1139/-	1048/-	1220/-	1065/-	1080.95	995/-	1140/-	1165.00	1290/-	1009/-	-
9.	-do- 51841	1125/-	1085/-	1073/-	1110.30	1080/-	1180/-	1075/-	1280/-	1095/-	1109.40	1023/-	1200/-	1255.00	1325/-	1320/-	-
10.	-do- 51845	1082/-	1055/-(HP) 795/- Amit	1043/-	1081.50	1080/-	1139/-	1048/-	1280/-	1065/-	1079.90	995/-	1140/-	1164.00	1290/-	1009/-	750/-
11.	-do- 51849	1125/-	1085/-(HP) 815/- Amit	1073/-	1110.35	1080/-	1175/-	1075/-	1280/-	1040/-	1109.40	1023/-	1150/-	1195.00	1325/-	1040/-	770/-
12.	Computer Ribbon, LQ 1050+	72/-	58/-	53/-	58.20	75/-	54/-	60/-pro	58/-	60/-	66.85 pro	58/-	64/- pro	58.40 pro	75/- pro	58/-	50/-
13.	-do- Q-35	85/-	-	70/-	84.25	80/-	81.75	70/- pro	89/-	85/-	95.10 pro	78/-	70/- pro	78.90 pro	115/- pro	135/-	-
14.	EPSON 440 Black	620/-	-	603/-	637.20	-	640/-	585/-	-	650/-	-	660/-	635/-	698.00	700/-	1041/-	-
15.	-do- Colour	995/-	-	943/-	1004.40	-	1015/-	950/-	-	1035/-	-	970/-	985/-	1034.00	1110/-	1536/-	-

Comparative Statement of Computer Fax Cartridge

Sl.No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enterprises	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stores	R.K. Traders	V.S.M.	Melody Home	Bharat Trd. Comp	K.B.	Shakti Mkt. Assot.	Tarun Traders	Nath Sons	Lakshmi Sales	P.A.Sales Corp.	Intigrated Tech.
1.	FO3CR (Sharp Roll), each	100/- Roll	300/- Canola X	-	-	135/-	340/-	500/-per Box (4)	675/-	165 Imaging care	88/-	300/-per Box4pcs	245/- Box	475/-	410/-each	180/-Canolax
2.	FO 15 CR (Sharp Roll) each	525/- Box	400/- Canolax	-	-	228/-	580/-	650/-per Box (2)	1130/-	725.20 Imaging care	192/-	500/-per Box	379/- Box 2pcs	520/-	595/-each	300/-Canlax
3.	BC20 (Canon)-do-	1390/-each	1325/-	1390/-each	1388.80	1295/-	1310/-	1980/-each	1450/-	-	1310/-	1390/-	1488/-each	1620/-	1280/-each	1400/-
4.	BC03 (Canon)-do-	1025/-each	985/-	1040/-each	1044.10	1080/-	1075/-	980/-each	1075/-	-	980/-	1050/-	1124/-each	1125/-	985/-each	1075/-
5.	B822(Canon)-do-	-	735/-	-	1643.00	-	1210/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1620/-	-	1300/-
6.	108 R319 (Modi)-do-	725/-each	-	1520/-each	1689.50	1730/-	1735/-	170/-each	1650/-	-	1680/-	1800/-	-	180/-	1750/-each	1800/-
7.	7881-R (Modi)-do-	1625/-each	-	1980/-each	1886.00	182/-	1788/-	1750/-each	170/-	-	1575/-	1850/-	-	1800/-	1788/-each	1600/-
8.	TTR 4200(Modi fax Roll)-do-	675/-(Box of 4Pcs.)	-	4650/-each	-	180/- Per Roll	1350/-	-	460/-	463.15 Imaging care	1340/-	5800/-Box of 4 Rolls	-	1200/-	800/-each	280/-Canlax
9.	Lamask-70 -do-	1275/-each	1245/-	1305/-each	1325.00	-	1345/-	1480/-each	1380/-	-	1215/-	1320/-	-	1625/-	1310/-each	1300/-

Comparative Statement of Computer Toner Cartridge

Sl.No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enterprise	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stores	R.K. Traders.	Viva. Enerp.	V.S.M.	Melody Home	Bharat Trd comp	K.B.	Shakti Mkt. Assot.	Tarun Traders	Nath Sons	Lakshmi Sales Corp.	P.A. Sales Crop	Intigra- ted Tech.	Amkette Amkt make only
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	HP-Q 2612	2884/-	2790/- 2370/-Amkt	2758/-	2870.80	2782/-	2970/-	2761/-	3050/-	2815/-	2880.50	2829/-	2980/-	3128/-	3380/-	2648/-	-	2355/-
2.	HP-Q2613	2980/-	2880/- 2420/-Amkt	2817/-	2934.50	2980/-	3045/-	2840/-	3120/-	2875/-	2930.20	2885/-	3050/-	3148/-	3450/-	2731/-	-	2360/-
3.	HP-3608	3084/-	2980/- 2500/-Amkt	2930/-	3029.25	2980/-	3200/-	2934/-	3180/-	2980/-	3026.25	2793/-	3200/-	3270/-	3688/-	2840/-	-	2375/-
4.	HP-308	2343/-	2240/- 1886Amkt	2244/-	2283.80	2320/-	2414/-	2221/-	2380/-	2290/-	2291.25	2138/-	2450/-	2500/-	2750/-	2153/-	-	1810/-
5.	HP-4096	4140/-	4005/- 3375/-Amkt	3658/-	4083.20	4125/-	4263/-	3884/-	4880/-	3820/-	4088.80	3774/-	4400/-	4380/-	4848/-	3838/-	-	3135/-
6.	HP-7115	2539/-	2480/- 2085/-Amkt	2430/-	2536.90	2480/-	2680/-	2457/-	2885/-	2480/-	2534.30	2514/-	2700/-	2734/-	2978/-	2358/-	-	2085/-
7.	HP-8061	5580/-	5150/-	5037/-	5261.25	5475/-	5580/-	5088/-	5100/-	5140/-	5258.70	4802/-	5485/-	5679/-	6188/-	4883/-	-	3685/-
8.	HP-1338	6895/-	-	6046/-	6289.20	6580/-	6720/-	6081/-	6100/-	6170/-	6283.80	5780/-	6750/-	6790/-	7400/-	5881/-	-	-
9.	HP-4127	5580/-	515/- 4315/-Amkt	5037/-	5226.20	6580/-	5308/-	5063/-	2950/-	5140/-	5223.40	4802/-	5485/-	5848/-	6188/-	4883/-	-	3685/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10.	HP-92296	4395/-	4040/-	3994/-	4114.85	-		3998/-	4220/-	4150/-	4112.10	3774/-	-	4436/-	5336/-	4045/-	-	
11.	HP-92298	4385/-	4000/-	3959/-	4081.15	-	4385/-	3982/-	4300/-	4040/-	4087.80	3774/-	4400/-	4436/-	4860/-	3958/-	-	2790/-
12.	HP-5948	2945/-	2855/-	2817/-	3074.55	2986/-	-	2829/-	2980/-	2875/-	2918.45	26785/-	3200/-	3174/-	3450/-	2749/-	-	2800/-
13.	P8a (Mod)	4300/-		4240/-	-	4450/-	-	4550/-	-	4800/-	-	4190/-	4800/-	-	4380/-	4875/-	4425/-	-
14.	Panasonic 490	3810/-		3806/-	-					3830/-	-	3380/-	-	-	4200/-	3900/-	3660/-	-
15.	Samsung 1710	3825/-		4120/-	3822/-	3860/-	-	3800/-	3360/-	3800/-	-	3275/-	3800/-	4274/-	4300/-	3828/-	3400/-	-
16.	Canon GP805														4180/-	-		
17.	Canon FX08 Model L220	3300/-	3575/-	3399/-	3445/-	3380/-	-	3900/-	3880/-	3400/-	-	3086/-	3800/-		4274/-	3980/-	3088/-	3400/-

Comparative Statement of Computer CD's

Sl.No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enter- prises	Chacha Stationers	Vidhal Enter- prises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stos	R.K. Traders	Vivek Enterp.	V.S.M.	Melody Home	Shant Tid. Comp.	K.B.	Shahid Mtd. Assol.	Tarun Traders	Nash Sons	Lakshmi Sales Corp.	P.A. Sales Corp.	Rajshani	Ankette
1.	CD(R) Moserbaer, each	18/-	18.80	185.00	798.00 (100 Pcs Pkt)	17.80	74.50	15.80	20.00	17.00	18.40	16.00	18.00	19.50	10.00	15.38	70/-	-
2.	CD (RW) Moserbaer, each	33/-	31.50	298.00	32.40 each	32.00	32.80	28.00	32.00	31.00	32.80	28.00	33.00	26.40	46.00	27.84	308/-	
3.	CD (R) Ankette, each	18/-	18.75	185.00	798/- (Pkt of 100 Pcs)	17.80	-	18.20	23.00	18.00	18.50	17.00	19.00	-	10.00	15.38	65/-	7.10 & 15.30
4.	CD (RW) Ankette, each	35/-	30.75	298.00	30.25 each	31.00	-	29.00	35.00	30.00	32.85	30.00	34.00	-	46.00	27.84	270/-	28.00
5.	CD(R) Sony, each	19.50	19.10	180.00	884/- (Pkt of 100 Pcs)	18.50	19.25	18.00	28.00	20.00	-	18.00	19.50	-	10.00	17.78	70.00	
6.	CD(RW) Sony, each	36.00	37.80	380.00	36.80 each	37.50	38.00	34.25	39.50	40.00		36.00	39.00	-	46.00	35.00	300/-	
7.	CD(R) Sofotech, each	-											35.00 (Box of 50Pcs)	-	10.00	-	60.00	
8.	CD (RW) Sofotech, each	-													45.80		600/-	

Comparative Statement of Registers

Sl.No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enter-	Chanda Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stores	R.K. Traders	V.S.M.	Melody Home	Bhasat Comp.	K.B.	Vivek Enter.	Tarun Traders	Nath Sons	Lakshmi Sales	P.A. Sales	Tripathi Hand made Industries	Goyal Stationers	Rajkhanl Elect.
1.	File Movement	65/- 200 page	52.50	53.00 4q	58.15 200 page	51.50	63.00	56.00	57.00 200 page	58.00 (800P)	70.00	58.00	64.00	68.00	55.00	-	50.00 (400P)	85.00
2.	Section Diary (Eng.)	65/- 200 page	52.50	53.00 4q	58.15 200 page	51.50	63.00	56.00	57.00 200 page	58.00 (800P)	65.00 (100P)	58.00	58.40	68.00	55.00	-	50.00 (400P)	125.00
3.	Section Diary (Hind)	65/- 200 page	52.50	53.00 4q	58.15 200 page	51.50	63.00	56.00	57.00 200 page	58.00 (800P)	65.00 100P	58.00	58.40	68.00	256.00	-	50.00 (400P)	120.00
4.	Despatch	68/- Squre L/B	52.50	53.00 4q	58.15 200 page	51.50	63.00	56.00	57.00 200 page	58.00 (800P)	65.00 100P	58.00	58.40	68.00	57.00	-	50.00 (400P)	110.00
5.	PAPS Diary	75/-		53.00 4q	58.15 200 page	28.50	63.00	56.00	66.00 200 page	68.00 (800P)		58.00		78.00	57.00	-	50.00 (400P)	125.00
6.	Log Book	79/- 200 page	67.00	42.00 200 page	-	60.00	46.00	39.00	46.80 100 page	48.00 (400P)	140.00 100P	74.00	84.00	82.00	67.00	-	46.00 (400P)	105.00
7.	Attendance	14/- 100 page	8.75	11.50 1q	12.00 48 page	8.50	13.00	16.00	12.50	12.00 (200P)	11.00 (48P)	14.00	12.40	80.00	14.00	12.00	7.80	95.00
8.	Ruled Regl. (1Qur)	13.50 96 page	8.75	10.00	14.30 96 page	13.00	9.50	120.00	10.50	9.67 96 page	12.00	15.00	11.50	16.00	8.50	8.95	10.39	95.00
9.	Ruled Regl. (2Qur)	24.60 192 page	16.00	14.95	22.00 192 page	19.50	18.00	180.00	17.00	16.90 192 page	25.00	25.00	16.40	26.00	9.10	16.25	17.42	180.00
10.	Ruled Regl. (3Qur)	36.80 300 page	23.00	22.50	28.70 288 page	31.00	25.00	300.00	24.40	24.34 288 page	39.00	35.00	24.80	32.00	12.10	23.15	25.34	240.00
11.	Ruled Regl. (4Qur)	47.50 400 page	29.00	27.50	37.40 384 page	38.50	32.00	50.00	31.00	31.30 384 page	52.00	45.00	32.40	41.00	15.10	30.75	32.17	315.00
12.	Ruled Regl. (6Qur)	68.00	45.00	40.00	55.00 576 page	54.00	46.00	62.00	45.10	46.28 567 page	79.00	65.00	48.00	48.00	24.10	45.15	47.72	315.00
13.	Ruled Regl. (8Qur)	86.00	72.00 L/B	68.00	73.45	68.00 L/B	68.00	80.00	58.30	53.58 768 page	170.00	88.00	84.00	69.00	29.20	69.25	64.84	319.00
14.	Full Index (2Qur)	39.50	37.00 L/B	33.50	34.35	35.00	32.00	38.00	34.65	32.00	40.70	36.00	33.80	45.00	33.40	34.15	38.83	150.00
15.	Ruled Regl. (4Qur)	57.00	45.00 L.B.	47.50	41.80	60.00	45.00	72.00	50.05	51.80	59.00	50.00	48.80	60.00	49.40	65.25	57.91	275.00
16.	Ruled Regl. (6 Qur.)	68.85	60.00	52.50	48.15	65.00	62.00	98.00	65.45	70.20	78.00	64.00	64.80	70.00	64.10	65.35	75.14	395.00

Comparative Statement of Photopapers

Sl. No.	Name of Items	Business Aid	Chadha Station	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin. Coop. Stores	R.K. Traders	V.S.M. Home	Melody Home	Bharat Td. Comp.	K.B.	Veen Enter.	Tanvir Traders	Math Store	Lakshmi P.A. Sales	P.A. Sales Corp.	Tripal	Goyal Stationers	Dahi Papers	Shield Mkt. Associates
1.	Ametz (Century) 80 GSM	-	107/- 75 GSM	108/-	-	108.40 75 GSM	108.00	108/-	125/- 80GSM	120.46	-	113/-	115/- 75GSM	135.00	125.00	108.50	110.24/75G 119.82 80GSM	108/- 75 GSM	108/- 75 GSM
2.	F5 Size (Century) 80 GSM	-	134/-	132/-	112/-	133.80	125.00	130.30	140/-	134.80	140.00	140/-	142/-	160.00	128.00	124.00	134.20 75 GSM	130/- 75 GSM	135/-75 GSM
3.	B-4 Size (Century)	-	-	175/-	-	-	-	-	-	168.00	-	-	-	248.80	218.80	-	180/-	-	-
4.	A-3 Size (Century)	-	-	280/-	228/-	228	206.80	238/-	238/- 75 GSM	225.50 75 GSM	235.00	248/-	234/-	275.00	280.00	212.25	225.27	218/-	225/-
5.	A-4 Size (75 GSM)(JK)	115/-	111/-	113/-	118.30	114.80	114/-	113/-	123/-	128.30	123.00	124/-	122.40	148.00	118.00	117.50	119/-	114.50	120/- 75GSM
6.	F5 Size (75 GSM) (JK)	140/-	-	138.30	145.80	141.50	134/-	142/-	150/-	148.30	148.00	150/-	148.80	180.00	140.00	143.80	146/-	140/-	145/- 75GSM
7.	B-4 Size (JK)	175/-	-	180/-	-	185.00	-	188/-	188/-75G	183.10	188.00	228/-	188/-	230.00	180.00	-	188/-	175/-	183/-
8.	A-3 Size (JK)	235/-	-	231/-	240/-	234.00	233/-	-	253/-75G	245.80	250.00	280/-	-	318.00	240.00	288.80	243.10	235/-	245/-
9.	A-4 Size, Mod Challenger 75GSM	155/- MX-75 GSM	107 unico 111/- Chal 140/- mx75	142/-	112/-	138.80	108/- CH 138/- mx 75	138/-	148/- MX-75	-	120.00	185/-	128.50	175.00	142.00	-	168.44	112/-	150/- 75 GSM
10.	F-5 Size, Mod Challenger	175/- MX75	138/- Chal 171/- mx75	168/-	138.50	168.00	128/- Ch 162 mx 75	178/-	188/- MX-75	-	158.00	195/-	188.80	205.00	185.00	-	138/-	188/-	180/- 75 GSM
11.	B-4 Size, Mod Challenger	-	225/-	208/-	223.80 75 GSM	-	-	230/-	242-MX75	-	-	250/-	288/-	283.00	305.00	-	174/-	228/-	-
12.	A-3 Size, Mod Challenger	-	232/- Chal 288/- mx75	280/-	228.80 75 GSM	288.00	221/- Ch 282mx 75	310/-	310-MX75	-	-	380/-	248.80	410.00	315.00	-	121.58	-	288/-
13.	Computer Sty. 12 x 15 Century (80 GSM)	510/- 1000	485/-	380/-	551/-	388.00	405/-	475/-	544/-	415.75	580.00	580/-	-	580.00	385.00	-	484/-	-	520/- 80 GSM
14.	Computer Sty. 10 x 12 Century (80GSM)	345/- 1000	325/-	245/-	253/-	235.00	270/-	375/-	382/-	288.00	384/00	375/-	-	375.00	285.00	-	320/-	-	530/- 80 GSM

Comparative Statement of Consumables

Sl. No.	Name of items	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	R.K. Traders.	V.S.M.	Techmart System Co.	Bharat Trd. Comp.	K.B.	Shakti Marketing Associates	Tarun Traders	Lakshmi Sales Corp.
1.	Ink Gest. 600 ml CPI-2	800/-	1100/-	575/-	475/-	-	800/-	825/-	730/- 600cc	650/-	840/-
2.	Ink Gest. 1000ml	1920/-	1800/-	-	1560/-	-	1900/-	1950/-	1575/- 1000cc	1500/-	1680/-
3.	Ink Riso, 1000 ml Model 1630	1600/-	1600/-	1270/-	58*	1330/- 800ml	1620/-	1350/- (800 ml)	1180/-	1200/-	1400/-
4.	Paper Master Roll Gest. CPMT -13	7250/-	5900/-	3175/-	5800/-	-	7250/-	7400/-	6300/-	2500/-	3080/-
5.	-do- CPMT-09	3650/-	3700/-	3175/-	2800/-	-	3805/-	3885/-	2750/-	1800/-	2240/-
6.	Paper Master Roll B-4, Riso Model 1830	2400/-	1900/-	2700/-	2160/-	2680/-	2620/-	2700/-	2350/-	1700/-	3080/-
7.	Ink Riso 1000ml Model 2030/2130	1800/-	1400/-	1550/-	1340/-	1650/-	1620/-	1675/-	1375/-	1200/-	1400/-
8.	Paper Master Roll A-4, Riso Model 2030/2130	1850/-	1600/-	3000/-	2200/-	2180/-	2135/-	2200/-	1950/- (A-4) 2350 (B-4)	1700/-	2940/-

Comparative Statement of Sanitary Items

Sl. No.	Name of Items	Business Aid Enterprises	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fr. Coop Store	R.K. Traders.	Vivek Enter	V.S.M.	Tripuli Handmade paper Ind	Melody Home Stationer	Goyal Stationer	Rajdhani Elec.	K.B.	Tarun Traders	Meth Gona	Lakshmi Sales Corp.	P.A. Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Agarbatti per Pkt	12.50 per pkt.	95/- per Doz	16/-	9/-	78 per Doz (8.50 each)	-	9/- per Pkt.	12.50 per Pkt.	102 per Doz.	-	12 per Pkt.	-	6/- per Pkt.	-	102/- Per Doz.	29/- Per Pkt.
2.	Broom Phool (Doz.)	264/- per doz	180/- (15.00 each)	170.00 (14.00 each)	210/- 18 each	204/- per doz.	204/-	180/- 15 each	180/- Doz	180/- doz	180/- Doz.	15/- each	15/00 each	14/- each	16/- each	270/-	220/-
3.	Handyl Broom (Doz.)	300/- per doz	75/- (6.00 each)	84/- (7 each)	90/- 8 each	120/-	204/-	80/- 80 each	84/- Doz	120/- doz	75/- Doz.	10/- each	4.80 each	10/- each	8/00 each	165/-	160/-
4.	Road Broom (each with Bamboo)	195/- each	60/- each	175/- each	65/- each	70/- each	50/- each	38/- each	90/- each	165/- each	145/- each	60/-	11.00 each	60/- each	285/- each	65/-	50/-
5.	Wiper (each)	45/- each	35/- each	50/- each	33/- each	55/-	95/-	41/-	28/-	35/- 75/- each	35/- each	75/-	37.00	65/-	48/- each	87/-	35/-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6. Floor Duster (Duz.)	185-per doz	115-(20 30)	120-	120- 20 30	144-	120-	120-	134-	85- 18 18	105-	180-Duz.	15-each	141/12 24 x 30	90-	180-	120- 24 x 24	100-
7. Duster White (Big) (Duz.)	150- 30" 30" per doz	120- (20 30)	144-	120- 20 30	130-	140-	120-	144-	70-	120-Duz.	10-each	140/30 30 x 30	80-	164-	120-	120-	
8. Duster White (Small) (Duz.)	40-per doz	60-	50-	60-	60-	70-	60-	130-	40-	70- 60-per doz	0-each	63/30 24 x 24	40-	70-	110-	60-	
9. Yellow Duster (Big) (Duz.)	180- 30 30 per doz	170-	120-	120-	130-	220-	180-	-	84-	100- 60-per doz	20-each	130.20	130-	120-	250-	240-	
10. Yellow Duster (Small) (Duz.)	120- 24x24 per doz	80-	70-	80-	70-	110-	110-	-	70- 60-per doz	10-each	67.20 24 x 24	64-	84-	140-	180-		
11. Baygon Spray 1/2 Ltr. Tin each	87-	90-	120-	90-	80-	-	140-	-	100-(1/2 lb)	-	100-each	-	100-each	-	100-	90-	
12. Baygon Spray 1 Ltr. Tin each	160-	180-	147-	160-	170-	-	120-	-	100-per Ltr.	-	200-each	154/30	160-each	-	160-	160-	
13. Baygon Spray 5 Ltr. Tin each	640-	570-	610-	600-	600-	-	610-	700-	600-	640-	600-each	631.25	700-each	-	700-5 Ltr.	600-	
14. Allout Machine each	50-each	50-with Lqd.	60-	54.81 with Lqd.	40-	-	80-	120-	-	50.00	63-each	53.25	34-each	-	50-	60-	
15. Allout Roll-each	30-each	37-	20-	38.47	30-	-	30-	-	40-	28.25	54-each	26.75	42-each	-	40-	37-	
16. Hi Spray (Black) Each	110-each	100-300 ml	100-300 ml	117.30	110-	-	100-	-	60-	-	100-each	114- 900 ml	60-each	-	120-	100- 300 ml	
17. Cleano 5 Ltr. Tin each	120-each	70-cleaned	110-	80-	80-	120-	70- & 110-	-	116.00	120-	200-each	100.22	140-	-	160-5 Ltr.	120-	
18. Pledge Tinted Wood 5 Ltr. Tin	160-each	170-	174-	160-	160-	-	180-	-	110-	120-4lb	400-each	107.00	200-	-	220-5 Ltr.	180-	
19. Razzo Freshener (Santal) each	40-each	40-	60-	74-	40-	-	60-	-	60-	20-Catchy	210-each 50-each	70/60	60-each	90- Lotion	60-	90-	
20. Razzo Freshener (Bamboo/Jasmine/Catchy Males) each	-	40-	70-	74-	40-	-	-	-	40-	20- 40-each	100-each	70.00 Add	70-	64- Insecto male	80-	110-	
21. Lux Soap	10-75 gm	12.20 100g	12.20 75 gram	11.12 100 g	12- 75 gram	-	10.00 100 gram	9.75 75 gram	13.00 100gm	9.00	0-	11.04 100gm	12.75 100gm	-	14/75 gm	9.00 75 gm	
22. Surf 1 kg. (700 ml)	50-	60-	60-	47.12 (700)	60- per Kg	-	74- Kg	60- per	70-	-	30- 700 gm	44.44	100-	-	100- kg	50- 700 gm	
23. Van 1 Kg	20-	10-	14-	11-	15.40	10-	20	10-	13.25	-	40-	21.24	12.50 pH.	-	14-kg	10-kg	
24. Fone Powder 1 Kg	-	20-	22.50	17.70	24-	-	20.20	24-	20-	-	40-	16.50	21-PH.	-	22-kg	14-kg	
25. Coin	40-each	40-300 ml	45.50 each	46.70	47.50	-	41-	-	40.00 40- (300 ml)	40.70	40-each	40.00	40-	-	40-	45.00	
26. Haptic 300 ml	45-each	43.75	44-	43.27	45-	-	41-	-	40-	40-	45-each	43.27	40-	-	50/300 ml	43.00	
27. Odorl	10-(50 gm) PH	14.00 each odobase	17- 50 gm	14.23 50 gram	14.00 odobase	-	21-	-	17.00 11.00 per pH Brand	13.00 other	20-each	23.11 100 gm	27- 100 gm	130-pH.	30-	17-	
28. Unani Balls	30- (400 gm) per PH.	60-	50- 400 gm	40-	40-	-	110- 1 Kg	-	20- 400 gram	40-Cube	0-each	47.85 200 gm	34- 200 gm	21-	40-	40- 400 gm	
29. Fire Pump	20-each	10-each	10-	10-	10-	25-each	18.00	-	10-each	10-	60-each	17.00	24-	-	40-	25-	
30. Fire 1 Ltr	-	70.00	70-	70-	80	-	70-	130-	100-	-	100-each	85.40	100-	-	110-1 Ltr	140-	
31. Fire 5 Ltr. Tin	-	340-	347-	420-	380-	-	380-	600-	380-	-	600-each	300-	400-	-	380-5 Ltr.	540-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
32.	Tissue Paper for Toilet per Pkt.	17- Windex per Pkt.	12-	10-	7.50	20-	-	10-	-	20- 30-	10-	70-each	6.80	12-ecl	-	20-pkt	20-
33.	Napkin Paper (Blackline) per pkt.	120-per Pkt. Large	12- (cont.)	15-	7.50	10-	-	20-	-	10- 20-	10-	10-each	12.00	20	-	40-pkt	17-
34.	Napkin Paper	120-per Pkt. Large	12- (cont.)	15-	7.50	10-	-	20-	-	10- 20-	10-	10-each	9.62	20-pkt	120- Per Kg	20-pkt	17-
35.	Napkins Balls	80- per Kg	70-per Kg	70-	40- 80 gm	70- (1 Kg)	80- per Kg	110-	90- per Kg	80- 120-Kg	40- Pkt.	1- each	20-	70-Kg	40-	40- 200gm	120- Per Kg
36.	Toilet Brush	25-each	20-	25-	25-	20-	20-	20-	20.00	20-	20-	20-each	-	25-	1200	20-	40-
37.	Soap Case	12-each	0-	6.80	7.50	0-	10-	0-	0-	7.50	20-	4.80 each	-	0-	00-	10-	10-
38.	Plastic Bucket 15 Lr	100-each	20.50	00-	05-	70- 10 Ltr	-	48.50	05-	00-	00- 00-	00-each	70-	00-	00-	00-	00-
39.	Plastic Bucket	70-each	21.00	00-	40-	00-	-	37-	00-	00-	00-	00-each	-	00-	00-	00-	70-
40.	Plastic Bucket 20 Lr	125-each	45-	00-	00-	00-	-	00-	00-	110-	100-	120-each	100-	04-	12-	00-	00-
41.	Plastic Mug	10-each	0.50	13.50	7.50	0-	20	13.00	7.50	7-	20-	10-each	11.90	0-	10-	10-	10-
42.	Brasso			20.50 (100ml)	20- 100gm	20-		100-		40-		20-each	116.44 800ml	20- 100ml	-	40- 100ml	-
43.	Toilet Liquid Lr		110- 8Lr	200- 8Lr (Hemocol)	140-	210-		100-		50-	120- 8Lr	60-each	148.17 Tigr	100- 8Lr	120-	220- 8Lr	110- Lr.
44.	Toilet Acid 5 Lr.		00- per 5r	00-	45-	110-		40-	00-	70-	00-	00-each	33.07	70-	70- 20r	00- Per Lr.	
45.	Clean Flush (Toilet Cleaner)			40-	40-	40-		40-		20.00	20.00	40-each		20-	00-	00- Small	
46.	Pearl Blue Soap (Mint)			18.00	17.24 75 gm	10-		23.50		18.50		17-each		20-	20-	10- Small	
47.	Ditol Liquid Soap, Hand Wash		40-	00- (200ml)	48.24	00-		00-	00-	00- 30 per pouch		70-each	47.11	04-	00-	00- Small	
48.	Agarwal Sandal	25- per Pkt		10- per pkt	0-	00-		00-	100- per 10 Pkt	7.50 per pkt		10- each	00- Dec	0- Pkt	12-pkt	00-	
49.	Fen Liquid Soap			000- 5 Lr	00-			00-		00- 10 Lr		00-each		04-each		120-1 Lr	00- small
50.	Hemocol Cube		72.50 each	70-	70-	24-		70-	00-	07-, 40- per - pkt unital cube		0-each		20-each		00-	00-
51.	Long Bamboo Brush			00-	00-	120-		00-	00-	00-		00-each		20-each		140-	00-

Comparative Statement of Other Store Items

Sl.No.	Name of the items	Business Aid Enterprises	Chacha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin Coop Store	R.K. Traders	Veena Enterprises	Vajay Stationary Mart	Melody Home	Rajdhani Electrical	K.B.	Taran Traders	Nath Sons	Lalohmi Sales Corp	P.A. Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Brief case	-	-	980,1700	1479	-	-	-	580,780,1 090,2800, 2980,3280	1600,1860	857.00,1157 52,1508.00, 1957.00	700,100 0,1500	-	2000	1950
2.	Pencil Cell	5.50	4.0	5	6.34	4.90	5.30	4.90	4.50	7	5.90	4.50		7	8
3.	Duro Cell	45 per set	-	30	-	9.50	-	18.80	-	-	38.50	25		22	29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4.	Torch Cell	9.50	8.50	9.50	8.45	8.90	10	8.85	175 (10)	10	8.44	9.50	-	10	40
5.	Torch 3 Cell	220	105	232	176.34	140	180	110	150	250	206.11	120		285	290
6.	Torch 2 Cell	200	70	132	97.78	120	150	100	28.80	65	126.44	75	-	155	175
7.	Lock small	65	37	32	24	45	45	18.10	38	20	51.50	20	-	75	50
8.	Lock Medium	85	48	45	60	70	70	69	42	30	80.40	32		110	90
9.	Lock Big	115	88	180	55	130	150	82	65,165	90	146.10	46		175	120
10.	Extension Board			156	300			290	350	60	286.30	150		165	285
11.	Chair Cushion	250		110	78	170		120	350	60	86.00	80		250	950
12.	Leather Brief Case	1500	1500, 1700	1460		1980		1580	1080, 3200	1200		1500	-	3000	2800
13.	Leather Dark Bag	1200	1700	1310		1650		145-	185, 1635	1960	257	1780	-	2600	1100
14.	Cloth Dak Bag	250	115	165	225	300			55, 135	462		75		790	300
15.	Ladies purse	150	-	375					280	250		900		450	300
16.	Calculator CT 500	275	220	180	325	390	350	220	220, 180	250	336	225		350	350
17.	Calculator CT 512	300	220	182		440		250	230	300	446	225		400	486
18.	Calculator Pocket size	125	110	175	90	190		120, 155	115	105	253	60		200	120
19.	Towel full size white	125	92	175	110	90	325	225	130, 180	175	193.50	90	165	150	135
20.	Towel coloured full size	150	92	135	120	80	340	145	130, 180	225	211	90	124	175	120
21.	Towel Car Size	225	140	135	110	170	325	250	180, 217	300	336	90	176	150	136
22.	Door Mat		335	310	420	310		531.80	390, 345	150		300	220	125	370
23.	Hot Case	2350	950	1560	860	1140		850	500, 680	750	1046	880	1480	1150	900
24.	Remote Bell	185	280	195	225	290		220	185, 350	300	262.40	140	290	300	850

Comparative Statement of Crockery Items

Sl.No.	Name of the Items	Business Aid Enterprises	Chadha Stationers	Vishal Enterprises	M/o Fin Coop Store	R.K. Traders	Verna Enterprises	Vejay Stationary Mart	Tripuri Handmade Paper Industries	Melody Home	Rajdhani Electrical	K.B.	Tanun Traders	Math Sona	Lakshmi Sales Corp	P.A. Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Tea Set	580	420	370	507	410	485	390	-	425,500	550	488.80 435.00	460	570	475	390
2.	Dinner Set	2250	2485	1817	2916	2475	2530	2080	-	1800,2300	2750	3029.60	1850	2040	2350	1850
3.	Full Plate	1125	900	850	1025	105	1080	75		1190	280	1004.25 1416.30	70	110	85	73
4.	Half Plate		580	705			540	39		700	200	607.20	60	-	75	36
5.	Quarter plate	575	580	420	513	52	540	39		700	150	502,707.65	85	54	45	36
6.	Cup & Saucers	250	208	190	248	218	250	390	-	265, 350	750	435,488.80	208	285	240	210

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7.	Bowls	432	40	312	508	24	300	445	-	60	275	424.25	18	-	36	330
8.	Bowls with Saucers	780	375	600		60	1340	575		380	350		33		50	330
9.	Soup Bowls	600	-	345	362	37	940	575		380	150	458.50	24		43	200
10.	Soup Spoon	250	108	178	140.40	39	85	8.50	-	15	20	265.75	8	8.50	7	25
11.	Table Spoon	95	75	120	108	28	85	14		80	15	265.75	8	8.50	7	25
12.	Tea Spoon	60	98	75	65	10	55	5.50	-	48	8	132.80	6	6.40	5	10
13.	Service Tray (Big)	120	78	80	248	120	165	145		115	45		125	148	150	130
14.	Service Tray (Medium)	85	78	70	162	90	130	93		90	30	122	75	110	95	90
15.	Service Tray (Small)	45	60	45	130	85	95	75	68	65	20		60	78	80	80
16.	Ordinary Glass Yera	7.00, 8.50	6.10	5.75	6.70	6.10	6.50	4.95	69, 85	5	20	6.80, 4.95	5.75	5.95	10	5.70
17.	Flower Glass Yera	15	9.10	230		7.25	17	7.50	58, 35	110	25	9	18		15	14
18.	Borasil Glass	36	230	169	205.20	32	415	36	7.95	32	12	30.20	30	34.50	32	190
19.	Cut Glass Medium	36	210	110	14.50	12	-	11	12	120	8	10.50	14	22	10	120
20.	Cut Glass small	15	12.50	110	11	12		11		90	225		14	18	9	120
21.	Thermos Flask 1 Ltr	275	125	1980	135	170	265	185	190	116	280	182.20, 185	240	218	235	275
22.	Thermos Flask 2 Ltr	725	180	280	232.20	290	975	605		215	475		285	890	975	480
23.	Mayur Jug 10 Ltr	210	225	189	189	210	235	178	-	225	400	365.90, 242.40	275	288	235	215
24.	Mayur Jug 7 Ltr	185	195	135	135	130	235	137	140	185	475	380.85, 199.80	225	195	195	210
25.	Mayur Jug 15 Ltr	245	155	189		245	295	178	124	205	550		275	288	235	215
26.	Plastic Jug 1Ltr	22	195	25	27	324	36	8.50	18	32		67.50	24	34	35	40
27.	Glass Cover	46	29.50	32	37	30	50	42	1.50	30	2	59.90	3.50	9	8	10
28.	Electrical Kettle	550	385	920	486	1090	550	485	550	935	450	540.95	340	640	400	990

[Translation]

(c) If so, the details thereof?

Cost Effective Drug for Malaria

4060. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the research for making Chloroquine, a drug used in the treatment of Malaria, cheaper and effective by mixing primaquine in it;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to develop such cost effective drug in the country; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):

(a) to (c) Under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), both Chloroquine and Primaquine drugs are co-administered for the radical treatment of malaria cases as per the National Drug Policy for the treatment of Malaria. Although both the drugs are not available as fixed combination due to technical reasons they are given as combi packs under the National Programme.

Condition of Labourers in Coal Mines

4061. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received any report/complaints from the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding the condition of labourers working of coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review and enact laws to improve the condition of labourers working in coal mines in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the proposed law is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are already laws to protect interest of Labourers working in coal mines. Therefore, there is no need to enact any further laws. Coal companies pay adequate attention to welfare of employees and regular efforts are made for improvement in civic amenities like housing, provision of safe drinking water, electricity supply, medical facilities and facilities for education of children of employees.

Nuclear Fusion

4062. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has joined the highly ambitious project International Thermonuclear Energy Reactor (ITER) promoted by developed countries build a plant to demonstrate the technical viability of nuclear fusion as a source of energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial implications for India as a result of joining the project?

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

(b) The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Governments of China, India, Japan,

South Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America have proposed to enter into an agreement for building an experimental test reactor viz., The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) that will demonstrate scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy.

(c) The approximate financial implication on India's joining the project is around Rs. 2500 crore, over a period of 10 years which will be largely in the form of in-kind contribution.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952:

(i) Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry (Alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) Report (Volumes-I, II-A and II-B).

(ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the above Report.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT—4234/06)

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4235/06)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

- (i) G.S.R. 180(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2006, approving the Madras Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R. 206(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2006, approving the Madras Port Trust (Contributory Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 2006.
- (iii) G.S.R. 242(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4236/06)

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4237/06)

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4238/06)

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4239/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4240/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

- (i) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 34(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2006.
- (ii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2006.
- (iii) G.S.R. 75(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 423 dated the 18th December, 2004.
- (iv) G.S.R. 76(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 424 dated the 18th December, 2004.
- (v) G.S.R. 77(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 425 dated the 18th December, 2004.
- (vi) G.S.R. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2006, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 426 dated the 18th December, 2004.

(vii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2006. published in Notification No. G.S.R. 150(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2006.

(viii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4241/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, 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 2004-2005.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Librai. *See* No. LT—4242/06)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4243/06)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4244/06)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2004-2005.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4245/06)

(8) (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 2004-2005.

(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 2004-2005, 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 2004-2005.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4246/06)

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4247/06)

(12) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 160(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2006, under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4248/06)

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2004-2005.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4249/06)

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (Regional Cancer Centre for Research and Treatment), Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (Regional Cancer Centre for Research and Treatment), Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4250/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Coal India Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4251/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:

(i) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Sixth Amendment) Regulation (1 of 2006) published in Notification No. 409-5-2005-FN in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2006.

(ii) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Seventh Amendment) Regulation (2 of 2006) published in Notification No. 409-5-2005-F.N. in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2006.

(iii) The Reporting System on Accounting Separation (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2006 (4 of 2006) published in Notification No. 16-31/2004-F.A. in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2006.

(iv) The Register of Interconnect Agreement (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2006 (3 of 2006) published in Notification No. 6-1/2006-B and CS in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2006.

(v) The Quality of Service (Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy) Regulation, 2006 (5 of 2006) published in Notification No. F.No. 305-8/2004 (QoS) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2006.

(vi) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 233 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April 2006.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4252/06)

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Communications for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4253/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

(i) S.O. 371 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. 78(E) dated the 4th February, 1999.

(ii) S.O. 464(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2006, regarding De-notification of certain stretches of National Highway Nos. 79 and 86 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) S.O. 465(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 4th August, 2005.

(iv) S.O. 462(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2006, directing the Border Road Organisation to exercise the function relating to the development and maintenance of National Highway No. 1D (Srinagar – Kargil – Leh section) in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(v) S.O. 460(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2006, making certain amendments in the highway starting from Srinagar connecting Kargil and terminating at Leh in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Eastern Peripheral Expressway (under construction) connecting National Highway Nos. 1 and 2.

(vi) S.O. 244(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Bhubaneswar – Kolkata section) in the State of Orissa.

(vii) S.O. 393 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Satara-Pune section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(viii) S.O. 482 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1250 (E) dated the 7th September, 2005.

(ix) S.O. 591 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(x) S.O. 626 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xi) S.O. 635 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2006, containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 482 (E) dated the 3rd March, 2006.

(xii) S.O. 518 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening-six/eight-laning) of National Highway No. 8, including improvement of Rajokari Junction in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

- (xiii) S.O. 592 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 935 (E) dated the 19th August, 2004.
- (xiv) S.O. 565 (E) and S.O. 566 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 26 (including construction of bypasses) (Jhansi-Lakhnadon section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xv) S.O. 248 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening-six/eight laning) of National Highway No. 8, including improvement of Rajokari Junction in National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (xvi) S.O. 513 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2006, authorising officers mentioned in the Notifications to acquire different stretches of land on National Highway Nos. 1 and 2 for building of the Eastern Peripheral Expressway of Delhi.
- (xvii) S.O. 570 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of Manjhighat Bridge on National Highway No. 19 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xviii) S.O. 571 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for construction of Toll Plaza (sixteen laning) on National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon – Kotputli section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xix) S.O. 429 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai – Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xx) S.O. 430(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening). National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore – Salem – Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxi) S.O. 431 (E) and S.O. 432 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai – Kanniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxii) S.O. 481(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning). National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri - Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 527(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1124(E) dated the 10th August, 2005.
- (xxiv) S.O. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 704(E) dated the 17th May, 2005.
- (xxv) S.O. 529(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 919(E) dated the 29th June, 2005.
- (xxvi) S.O. 530(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1024(E) dated the 10th August, 2005.
- (xxvii) S.O. 531(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 922(E) dated the 29th June, 2005.
- (xxviii) S.O. 562(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri – Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 563(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of

land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xxx) S.O. 564(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1382(E) dated the 22nd September, 2005.
- (xxxi) S.O. 583(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai – Kaniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxii) S.O. 589(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore – Salem – Madurai and Madurai – Kaniyakumari sections) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 486(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2006, regarding rate of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretch of National Highway No. 4 (Tavarakere – Mydala Amanikera section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 532(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 568(E) dated the 15th April, 2005.
- (xxxv) S.O. 533(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1122(E) dated the 10th August, 2005.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 534(E) to S.O. 536(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai – Kaniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxxvii) S.O. 537(E) to S.O. 539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore – Salem – Madurai and Madurai – Kaniyakumari sections) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxxviii) S.O. 337(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad – Bangalore section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xxxix) S.O. 354(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad -Bangalore section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xi) S.O. 584(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai – Kaniyakumari section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xii) S.O. 588(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore – Salem – Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xlii) S.O. 573(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 1711 (E) dated the 6th December, 2005.

(xliii) S.O. 574(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 14 in Banaskantha district in the State of Gujarat.

(xdiv) S.O. 575(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, making certain

amendments in Notification No. S.O. 1008 (E) dated the 11th July, 2005.

(xiv) S.O. 576(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006, regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway Nos. 14 and 76 in Sirohi district in the State of Rajasthan.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (xv) of (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4254/06)

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 461 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2006, entrusting certain stretches of Eastern Peripheral Expressway (under construction) connecting National Highway Nos. 1 and 2, to National Highway Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highway Authority of India Act, 1988.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4255/06)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:

(i) S.O. 237(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2006, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 76(E) dated the 20th January, 2005.

(ii) S.O. 238(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2006, authorising the project Directors of the National Highway Authority of India to exercise powers and functions conferred on the Highway Administration in respect of the National Highways mentioned therein.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4256/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4257/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (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 Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4258/06)

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4259/06)

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4260/06).

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4261/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for

Cultural Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4262/06).

12.04 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 16th May, 2006 from Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, an elected Member from Bhagalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect.

I accepted his resignation with effect from 16th May, 2006.

12.04¹/₄ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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 rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control (Repeal) Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th May, 2006."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th May, 2006."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control (Repeal) Bill, 2006 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Amending Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 15th and 16th May, 2006 respectively.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twentieth Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.04³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Eleventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2005-2006) on "The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2005" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Thirteenth and Fourteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MANI PRASAD (Basti): Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:

- (1) Thirteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year

2006-2007 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment; and

- (2) Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2006-2007 of the Ministry of Textiles.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can appreciate your decision to give him an opportunity. But you cannot do that by remaining present in the House. This is for all the hon. Members.

12.05 1/4 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 81st and 86th Reports of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2004-05 and 2005-06) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Shipping

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and direction 73 A issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin — Part II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 81st and 86th Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture had held its meeting on 12th August 2004 and on 4th April, 2005 to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Department of Shipping for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The Committee had also taken the oral evidence of officers of the Ministry. The Committee analysed the Demands for Grants of the Ministry with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements and presented its Reports on the Demands for Grants 2004-05 and 2005-06. The 81st Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 26.8.2004 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 26.8.2004 and the 86th Report was

presented to the Rajya Sabha on 29.4.2005 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29.4.2005.

The Standing Committee in its Report made sixteen recommendations in its 81st Report and twenty-four recommendations in its 86th Report. The Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* O.M. No. G-20017/9/2004 dated 01.12.2004 for the 81st Report and *vide* O.M. No. G-20011/11/2004-Budget dated 24.8.2005 for the 86th Report.

I am also laying on the Table of the House* a Statement giving the status of implementation of each of the recommendations contained in 81st and 86th Reports.

12.06 hrs.

- (II) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 82nd and 84th Reports of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2004-05 and 2005-06) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Road Transport and Highways

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and direction 73 A issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin — Part II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 82nd and 84th Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture had held its meeting on 12th August 2004 and on 31st March, 2005 to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Department of Road Transport & Highways for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The Committee had also taken the oral evidence of officers of the Ministry. The Committee analysed the Demands for Grants of the Ministry with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements and presented its Reports on the Demands

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4263/06.

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

for Grants 2004-05 and 2005-06. The 82nd Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 26.8.2004 and was laid off the Table of the Lok Sabha on 26.8.2004 and the 84th Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 29.4.2005 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29.4.2005.

The Standing Committee in its Report made sixteen recommendations in its 82nd Report and seventeen recommendations in its 84th Report. The Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Committee has been furnished to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat *vide* O.M. No. G-20017/9/2004 dated 1.12.2004 for the 82nd Report and *vide* O.M. No. G-20011/10/2005-Budget dated 1.9.2005 for the 84th Report.

I am also laying on the Table of the House* a Statement giving the status of implementation of each of the recommendations contained in 82nd and 84th Reports.

12.09 hrs.

(iii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in 18th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Planning**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.4.2005. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2005-06.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance on 19.7.2005. These formed part of the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their

*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4264/06.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT— 4265/06.

Eighteenth Report which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2005.

Six issues were examined by the Committee in their Eighteenth Report, which mainly pertain to performance of the economy. They are: (i) Modernization of Office System; (ii) Payment for Professional and Special Services; (iii) Grants-in-Aid; (iv) Tenth Plan; (v) Fiscal Performance in the Tenth Plan; (vi) Zero Based Budgeting.

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 taken and considered as read.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): This is a question related to an hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sit down, please you may speak, when your turn come.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This is very important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Somebody has a threat on his life...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am giving notices numbersly for the last three days. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing now? You cannot choose the time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed myself that I will give you opportunity, but at the proper time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Let him speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Lalu ji, I shall give him an opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed to them. I am as much concerned about the health condition of the hon. Member as you are. I have already issued instructions. I shall certainly allow you, if you want to raise it in the House. I have said that I will allow it. But you just cannot try to bulldoze the Chair. Please do not do this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to make it clear on the floor of the House that some reports being sent to me regarding the condition of the health of an hon. Member who is now in some prison. Therefore, I have already instructed the office to take it up immediately with the authorities concerned so that all possible steps are taken. I have again issued instructions today. Even then if you want to raise that, I will allow you to raise it on the floor of the House. It is certainly not my intention that any hon. Member should suffer. Therefore, please do not do this.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Once I start ignoring the rules, I do not know where we will stand.

There are some important matters. But, if you go on behaving like this and whenever members who so wish rules have to be violated, then we do not know where we stand.

12.11 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of the proposed reservation for OBCs in IIMs, IITs and other Higher Educational Institutions of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are going to discuss an important matter which is Item No. 19 - Calling Attention.

The rules provide that Calling Attention will be taken up at this time and after that, I will allow Special Mentions. Now, this is a sensitive matter. I know hon. Members are very responsible and they will consider the situation.

Now, I want to make it clear that although in the ballot the name of Prof. Ramadass has not come, as a special measure, and not as a precedent, I will allow him to speak. But I would appeal to every section of the House that they may not try to raise their hands to speak on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I would like to say... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, do away with the rules, do away with the balloting system.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not force me.

Also, I have another request from Shri Santosh Gangwar, whose name is at number one. He wants that his Deputy Leader, Shri V.K. Malhotra should be allowed to start the Calling Attention. This is also not provided. We do not usually do that. But since a special request has come, I want to make it clear that on this occasion only, not as a precedent, I am allowing Shri Malhotra to call the attention of the Minister.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, you have accepted a very sensitive and important matter under the Calling Attention, But there is no scope for others for discussion under the rule. If you can allow some Members of the parties just to express their views, it will be all right. I would request you to please consider this thing.

MR. SPEAKER: It depends on the cooperation I receive from all sections of the House. There is no previous commitment.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of proposed reservation for OBCs in IIMs, IITs and other higher educational institutions of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

*THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005 came into force on the 20th January, 2006. By inserting a new clause (5) in Article 15 of the Constitution, this Amendment has enabled the State to make special provisions, by law for the advancement of the SCs, the STs and any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens also known as the OBCs in matters of their admission to all educational institutions, including aided or unaided private educational institutions, except minority educational institutions established under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

Soon after the Act came into force, on the 24th January 2006, Chief Ministers of States were requested to take necessary steps in the direction of formulating appropriate State laws to give effect to the provisions of Article 15(5) in respect of admissions to educational institutions in the respective States. It has been pointed out to States that they would be competent to make suitable laws in keeping with local conditions covering all matters for the advancement of the weaker sections, including (i) Reservation of Seats (ii) Differential Fee

*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4266/2006.

Structure and (iii) Separate Admission Procedure. So far as Central Legislation to give effect to the provisions of Article 15(5) covering central institutions including the IITs and IIMs is concerned, the same is under consideration of the Central Government. The Central Government are aware of all views expressed in this regard and shall take an appropriate decision on this issue without in anyway diluting the commitments arising out of the constitutional amendment in Article 15(5).

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House know that a constitutional amendment has been made regarding the statement presented before the House by Shri Arjun Singh ji. It has some commitment to fulfill, but before I give my opinion, I think to which nobody is going to object, that students, doctors horribly lathicharged few days back...*(Interruptions)*, they were terribly tortured, the way they were lathi-charged robed tear-gas shells ...*(Interruptions)*, the way they were ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please I have already appealed to all sections of the House. Let us conduct this important discussion.

[Translation]

Sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Your leaders have also condemned it. Arjun Singh ji has also condemned. Everybody has condemned it. That is why I was saying that the whole country shivered to see on their television sets, the way they were beaten up...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[English]

What is happening? I am also reminding

[Translation]

Sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already condemned that. He has expressed his regret already.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All right, this is what I am saying. Speaker, Sir, the democracy that ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, will you please take your seat? Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a blot on the democracy ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have we forgotten how to behave ourselves in a serious manner in this House? Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a big blot on democracy. Whenever such incidents occur in other countries, they shatter the entire nation and the honourable Minister should explain it while giving his reply ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us come to the issue, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken your time is over.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I have not yet finished ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You come to the main issue. What is happening?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I want to know what is happening in this House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Kripal ji, please speak at your turn. Your leader will also speak on this issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only appeal to the leaders. You sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not to control the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they better tell us whether they support reservation or are against it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got enough trouble.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request please let us try to avoid provocations also. This is a very serious matter. All of you are very responsible Members. Therefore, I appeal to all of you to come to the basic issue so that no further tension is created. I made an attempt yesterday.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a question of tension. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They should be ashamed of the atrocities that were committed there, you alongwith all your Ministers have condemned it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The whole House has condemned it. All parties have condemned it and you are just supporting them ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then I shall come to the next Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will name you, Mr. Athawale. It is a disgusting behaviour. I will name you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You have also condemned it and all people sitting with you have condemned it. All members of your party are standing and instead of controlling them you are provoking them. You are not taking action against the police officers who dragged the people by their hair and beat them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will stop the discussion. I will conclude it. Please address the Chair on the issue. I am doing my best.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope honourable member should not say any thing which might hurt the emotions of the other honourable Members. He should exercise temperance in his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Are you keeping your cool. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright. You can speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise House will adjourn.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has written in his reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The way you are behaving is not proper. The whole country is seeing that we cannot discuss a very important issue of this country in a proper manner. Many young people are involved in this. They are on the streets. We have to give our views, whether right or wrong, in a proper, disciplined manner so that we can set an example for others.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not shout here. I hope your voters are seeing how you are behaving.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal repeatedly to the whole House to maintain discipline.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were right that whether he has done right or wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to my party MPs to keep silent.

[Translation]

I want to ask the B.J.P. whether they are in favour of reservation or not ?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to state that the issue of reservation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Give me the rule. I will name him today. This is very unfortunate.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding reservation this House has unanimously. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will strictly enforce the rules and as per that you are only entitled to ask one question.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constitution amendment bill was passed unanimously and entire House is bound by it, no one is an exception. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very difficult thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we say that we are bound by it and they say that it is not so ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are not letting me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, have I given him permission? You look at me and speak.

[Translation]

You seem to be reprimanding him.

VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I speak, they are interrupting me. Mr. Speaker, Sir, entire country is in turmoil and the entire country seems to have joined in protests. ...*(Interruptions)* Hospitals are closed and the condition of patients is very bad, who is responsible for it. Where did all this begin?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You only put questions.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am putting only questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want know that the hon. Minister has stated....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am asking my question. The hon. Minister has said this when elections were being held in five States.

Then, why suddenly at that time hon. Minister gave this statement that we are implementing it everywhere and later said that Central Government would decide. Now he is saying that he has to talk with the Prime Minister and thereafter he is saying again that the cabinet will take decision in this regard but how come Mr. Arjun Singh announced it without a decision being taken in the Cabinet. Elections were to be held in five States and this situation has arisen because of elections. I would like to read headlines of 5-6 items. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am asking the question. Yesterday he said this thing here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to remind every hon. Member that according to the very well established procedure,

[Mr. Speaker]

disturbing the proceedings of the House and questioning the decision of the Speaker is nothing but a breach of privilege and I am going to implement that. This is already provided in our rules.

It is becoming a fashion here to disturb the House. We are trying to have a proper discussion in the highest forum in the country on an issue which is agitating the minds of the people. Can we not discuss that in a disciplined and sober manner? Every party's Member whose name has come is entitled to speak on this and nobody can stand up and shout at any time. You can raise a point of order in a civilised manner.

I appeal to Mr. Malhotra to please put questions as per rules.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, questions will be put as per the rule following the convention. Yesterday Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Forget about Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made. But each Member against whose name the item stands in the List of Business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Is it true Mr. Arjun Singhji that when you gave this statement then Mr. Sibal spoke against it from Germany.

[English]

In Germany Sibal speaks out against Arjun Singh.....

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am asking the question whether it is right or wrong?

[English]

"after Sibal's remarks, the Congress goes on damage control",

[Translation]

Whether it is proper? Whether it is true that Mr. Arjun Singh has complained against Mr. Sibal to the Prime Minister? These are the headlines. I would like to know about the Knowledge Panel that the Prime Minister constituted by nominating its members.

[English]

Knowledge Panel wrote 6:2 against no quota"

[Translation]

Is it true? Is it true that Mr. Arjun Singh has said that

[English]

"No quota Knowledge Panel not above law".

[Translation]

I would like to ask Mr. Arjun Singh whether it is true? Is it true also that this Panel made by the Prime Minister has said that

[English]

"Preposterous remark is obscuranting issue, says panel members".

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Done

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This Government is speaking in different languages. Mr. Sibal is it not true? Yesterday Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's statement came.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Forget about it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why should I forget? I am asking him.

MR. SPEAKER: That was not addressed to you, Shri Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

[Shri Ajay Chakraborty]

MR. SPEAKER: My accommodation is being treated as my weakness.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Pranab Mukherjee said that we will take such a decision as will satisfy all people. Prime Minister is silent on the same. Whether it is not true that Sonia Gandhi ji is silent on the same? She is silent and not discussing. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Let him first come out with his stand. He should spell it out.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is the stand of the Government? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

What is the Government stand? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the next Member Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you may start.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell, that the Government has not cleared their stand. Mr. Arjun Singh will have to tell that what is the stand of the Government and what the Government wants to do in this regard ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Nothing more will be recorded. Only Shri Chakraborty's statement will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chakraborty, only question and no speech, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Chakraborty to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I will not allow any more, Shri Malhotra. I will not allow anything more being recorded. Only Shri Chakraborty's statement will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chakraborty, if you do not put your question, I will call the next Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, this matter has three aspects. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to be strict. My accommodation is being treated as my weakness.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, this matter has three aspects. It is not only the question of reservation or anti-reservation, but the total medical sector has collapsed due to this agitation. People are dying without being provided any medical aid.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, people are not being provided a single drop of medicine in the hospitals. The doctors, both in the private and Government hospitals, are on streets.

MR. SPEAKER: We all know that.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, in our democratic country, every person and every organisation has a right to stage agitation and demonstration, whether it is just or not, whether it is right or wrong. There are police atrocities upon the students. That is condemnable. I have also given a notice to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, we are in favour of reservation. Our Party is strongly in favour of reservation to SCs/STs, minorities and OBCs. I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has started any initiative to open

*Not recorded.

[Mr. Ajay Chakraborty]

a dialogue with the agitating students to pursue them in order to withdraw their strike and their movement.

Sir, my second question is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No second question please. You please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, nothing is being recorded. Please take your seat.

Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Please put only a clarificatory question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is such a serious matter and I am astonished to see its seriousness. ...*(Interruptions)*. The way Mr. Malhotra has provoked, the whole country is viewing today whether the BJP is supporting reservation or is against it.

MR. SPEAKER: You leave this and put your question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under articles 15(4), 16(4), 38, 39, 46, 340, 341, 342 and 335 of the Indian Constitution there is a promise to provide reservation by the Government. There is no restriction for the same, not only this the Parliament has also agreed to the same.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is beyond my comprehension whether continuing debate on this is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that a few people, who can be counted on fingers have today paralysed the hospitals of the whole country by illegal means ...*(Interruptions)*. This is an illegal, anti constitution action ...*(Interruptions)*. Action should be ensured against such people and the Government should take responsibility that despite the concurrence of the Parliament the implementation of reservation is not delayed ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to ask directly that it is the

commitment of the hon. Minister and of the UPA Government to provide reservation and it is under the principle of special opportunity enshrined under the constitution. Hence, I would like to ask the Government to ensure that a time-limit be formulated for ensuring admission of the OBCs in the IITs, IIMs and the Central higher educational institutes for which the Parliament has given its approval. Alongwith it, I would also like to know that as per the answer of this calling attention, it has been said that the Central Government is aware of all the viewpoints in this regard and it would take appropriate decision on this matter ...*(Interruptions)*, then by when the Government would take appropriate decision as this country has already seen agitation in this regard once. The Supreme Court has given its verdict in 1992, and it has clearly stated that ...*(Interruptions)*. Initiate ensuring reservation for OBCs and Circular should be brought out ...*(Interruptions)*. There is no need of making any act for the same ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Yerrannaidu—Not present.

Now, Shri A. Krishnaswamy. Please put a clarificatory question.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party I thank the hon. Minister for having given a commitment in this august House regarding the Reservation Policy. Earlier also this Government has brought a Bill in the Winter Session for the reservation of OBCs in the private and unaided colleges. Sir, right from the Independence, the upper caste people are dominating in the Central Government institutions ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. What is the percentage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people and OBCs in the higher educational institutions in this country?

Sir, I have come from the soil of the social justice. Right from the Chenbagam Durairajan case, there was a

big agitation in the State of Tamil Nadu. At that time Shri Kamaraj was the Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu. Our great leaders - Kamaraj, Periyar, Anna and Kalaingar - had agitated on this issue ...(*Interruptions*). The first Prime Minister of this country, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru implemented the reservation policy as per article 15(4) of the Constitution ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will go on record. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. It is not being recorded. You have put your question. Please take your seat. I would not allow this.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Ramadass

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, on behalf of PMK and its founder President, 'Doctor Ayya', we wholeheartedly compliment the Government of India, the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the UPA headed by Madam Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for their able commitment to the policy of reservation. The reply given by the hon. Minister is very satisfactory, to the extent that the Government would be able to bring this legislation as soon as possible.

Now the situation arising out of this decision of the Government is that there is a law and order problem in the country. Will the Government call the students who are on strike for a peaceful talk and explain to them the situation, explain to them the rationale of this reservation policy and explain to them that it is the constitutional commitment on the part of the Government to provide reservation to them? Will the Government try to increase the seats? If it is going to increase the seats, will it increase the infrastructural facilities in the institutions of higher learning also? If it is going to increase the infrastructural facilities, will it increase the outlay on higher education? Will the outlay on higher education be earmarked for the institutions of excellence? Therefore, the Government should come out with an ordinance immediately. Will it come out with an ordinance as soon as possible so that one academic year of the students will not be lost in due course of time?

Therefore, we would like to request the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development to diffuse the situation by bringing calm atmosphere and by explaining to them and also take other immediate steps that have to be taken.

Will the Government also avoid the delay because already the delay in bringing about an enabling legislation to implement the 93rd constitutional amendment has enabled the private sector institutions to make a wind fall gain of Rs. 835 crore? They are now thwarting the constitutional requirement by not implementing the 93rd constitutional amendment. Therefore, in the private sector institutions also on which we have passed the legislation about four months back, will the Government come out with an immediate legislation to bring both the private sector and the public sector institutions under the fold of the reservation policy?

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to you for your very pertinent questions and for your kind cooperation. Yes, the hon. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I will not allow you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not target the Chair. Please go to your seat. Please do not make a mess. Please go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I had thought of allowing one Member from each Party.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, we have not been given time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You listen. You keep sitting here. You know everything.

[*English*]

I am sorry to say that there is no cooperation with the Chair. It not only makes me sad but also it gives such a bad image of this House. You are also not serving the cause.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: People are laughing at you. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, everybody is laughing at you. Do not make it a matter of joke. If only one question is put and no speeches, although I am inclined not to do it, in view of the importance of the matter, I am prepared to do it. But this is not the way to conduct the proceedings of the House. You are forcing me to be extra strict and go according to the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take that I am too weak. I am not that weak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I have given notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. So what if notice is given? How long are you here? Have you purchased me? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will have to get rid of him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. Your place is outside this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, please put only one question.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important matter. If something is said in the interest of more than half of the population of the country, which has remained deprived for centuries people fail to digest that. Those people who are occupying the share of the 80 percent people till date start of unrest in the whole country if Mr. Arjun Singh gives a small statement. People are dying because of medicines.

[English]

There is criminal negligence on the part of the doctors.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when the Parliament has approved the bill, then why so much delay has occurred in implementing it? How long will you take to make an arrangement for admission on the basis of reservation and what action the Government is going to take against those doctors who did not follow their duties and left patients to die unattended?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please put only one question and not make a speech. Let it be a limited one.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, reservation is a right and not a concession. Reservation is a constitutional right. The quota, as reported in the Press, is only a concession. There is nothing in common between reservation and quota. Quota is entirely different. Reservation is a matter of right guaranteed under the Constitution. So, it must be maintained and all that is possible must be done to see that the reservation of the OBCs is maintained with all its seriousness. The Committee has reported 27 per cent. That should be maintained and it must be implemented.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I request the Government that at any cost, whatever be the situation, whatever be the consequence, they must implement it. That is the point.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Anant Geete, do you want to put a question?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): I will not give a speak and just ask one question. There is consensus in the House on this issue and there is no difference of opinion in this regard. Through you I would like to know why the Government is divided on the issue of agitation which is going all over the country. Why is the hon. Prime Minister silent on the subject?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Jena.

SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): Sir, my Party is in favour of the reservation to the Backward Classes. The House has already resolved to provide reservation to the Backward Classes which is justified. My question is - Whether the Government is planning to provide reservation as per the strength of the population of the Backward Classes. To solve this unprecedented situation arising out of the present movement, whether the Government is considering to enhance the seats in the IIMs and the IITs? My suggestion is that the hon. Minister should intervene immediately to bring an end to the present movement of the doctors ...(*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not cooperated Shri Ramchandra Paswan.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): I would like to know whether the Government is ready to give reservation? If so, whether the people from Public sector who are joining private sector, will get reservation there?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I will allow you, if you express your regrets.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am your supporter, I am your friend ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I do not require your support. Firstly you express your regrets.

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

MR. SPEAKER: You have to express your regrets first.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Arjun Singh has announced reservation for OBCs in IIT,

IIM and twenty universities of Government of India on behalf of the Government through this Bill. Regarding the ongoing agitation by the doctors and others, I would like to say that they have the right to launch agitation, but it is not within their right to oppose reservation. Whether RSS is behind it or ...(*Interruptions*) My question is that when is the hon. Minister going to implement the decision of the Cabinet which he has announced? It should be implemented as soon as possible.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar, Please ask one question, Do not follow your Deputy Leader.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly Bhartiya Janta Party has never opposed reservation. We support reservation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask one question.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: When you are in favour of it even then you say no. Leave it, you just ask one question.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country out of every 60 candidates one gets into IIT. We talk about reservation while one lakh twenty seven thousand children pay capitation fees to get admission in the country. We are going to open an IIM in Singapore but want to deprive our children of education. I would like the hon. Minister to inform the House if any student has misused the benefits of reservation. 6 percent of GDP is said to be spent on education. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is being spent on primary education and higher education which ought to be available to the children or is he only thinking of opening an IIM in Singapore? I feel that if he pays attention towards this, it would definitely help. I would say it with emphasis that those one who get admission on the basis of reservation also study same syllabus and take same examinations. Those children are not lacking in anything be it behaviour or performance. Hence I request that if providing reservations is wrong then it puts a question

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

mark on those one lakh twenty seven thousand students who get admission on the basis of payment of capitation fees. I would request the hon. Minister to give due consideration to this issue.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has spoken. I cannot allow more than one Member. Shrimati Jayaprada, I always give you a chance. But if I give you a chance, then everybody will say. I am very sorry. Please excuse me this time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister only will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, listen to the hon. Minister. You do not have patience.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, at the very outset, I would like to inform Prof. Malhotra very categorically that this Government and I myself do not condone the kind of violence used against the demonstrators. In fact, in Delhi when this question came up, I asked them to invite the students who wanted to meet me. The students said that they wanted to meet me in the presence of the media. So, the entire media came in my small office room in Delhi and before them, I had a dialogue with them. The point is not that. When we are not in favour of using violence against the students, then why make that the issue? I think, making that the issue gives away the real intention. The fact of the matter is ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Who did the violence?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, whoever did it. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why are all of them justifying it? Why do they not take action against them? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Merely say sorry will not suffice considering the atrocities perpetrated on them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply. He is entitled to reply. Do we want to dictate to each other how the other Member will speak?

[Translation]

This will not do?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The hon. Minister is speaking for backward people, he should speak in Hindi.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: As you wish.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Thank you.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an attempt to spread misleading information about the whole matter, I have been saying about it time and again. Atleast the hon. Members should not have any doubts when I am giving explanation in front of them one can propagate what one wants to outside the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We are united in it.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I would like to make it clear that there is no question of going back on the promise which the Government made to this House and the country while getting the constitution amendment Bill passed. The question is that there has been delay in this regard. I would like to give the reasons for delay. The delay is not owing to myself or the Government. It was a coincidence that 5 States were going into polls at that point of time and the election commission prohibited any discussion on this topic under the model code of conduct. It is another matter whether it should have been prohibited or not, I would not like to go into that. Due to this it could not be taken up for discussion by the Government till two days before the commencement of session. There was no discussion, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I can only explain things one by one ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR SPEAKER: I do not understand why you are interrupting like this. If you want to ask any questions from him, then with my permission you can do so after he has finished speaking. You cannot go on having running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason for delay is ...(*Interruptions*) Do you want that I should again start speaking in English ? ...(*Interruptions*) Whatever I have said with regard to this subject, this House has publically passed this amendment Bill. Whatever I had stated in the House at that time, that is my authorized statement and I had stated every thing in that. After that I have not given any such statement on that subject at any level. I can say that efforts were made to confuse this whole situation, Election Commission was also misled about this. They have sent me a formal notice and I gave my explanation. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They have held you guilty.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Malhotra, they have not held me guilty, and that is your problem.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They have held you guilty, but action was not taken. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody's word is the last word in this country. They may observe whatever they want.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is there on record.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I do not want to drag Election Commission into it, but whatever has been stated about this statement is creating confusion. Nobody has given any statement. If a thing is clarified in the House then what is the need to give another statement outside. This Government has no difference of opinion on this issue. Neither there is difference of opinion nor there are any chances of it ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a reply from Shri Sibal, go in his chamber and ask him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Shri Sibal is present here. If he want to give any explanation, let him give it ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, it will be after honourable Minister's speech, subject to my consent.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir in between some medical students started agitation. They also have the right to speak. I do not condemn them. They are our children so we should listen to them. Government could not take a final decision regarding this Bill and such things happened in between. It is but natural that Prime Minister thinks so but our commitment is intact. There is no question of going back. If people want to say something else and we can solve their problem then we should try to solve it. Nobody should have objection about it. Therefore, people gave this suggestion. Some gave suggestion to increase seats and some suggested to open some more institutions. Now, no decision can be taken in 24 hours. It is natural that when we consider it, we will consider all aspects and take a collective decision. But, I want to make it clear that as far as Constitutional Amendment regarding reservation passed by this House is concerned, it will not be taken back. But since it is creating tension in the society, efforts should be made to stop it and nobody should have objection in it. It would be a sensible thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am repeating it to give a signal that there is no need to increase tension. We need to take a right decision ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are increasing tension ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have never increased tension. I neither live in tension nor increase it. The people who live in tension, increase it. ...(*Interruptions*) Perhaps you are unable to understand it as I am speaking in Hindi, but I am speaking it with you permission.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I humbly request this House that there should be no doubt among all of you. This

[Shri Arjun Singh]

Government will take a decision in the interest of society as a whole. The decision would be an effort to protect the interest of all and there is no question of going back from the commitment shown by the House.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Give me one minute, Sir. My name is there, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So, what? Your name was there. I called your name and you were not there. Mr. Naidu, I am sorry, I will not allow that. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.58 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need for release of funds by ONGC to Mehsana District Administration for providing irrigation and other civic amenities in Mehsana Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, in my constituency Mehsana, ONGC produce 6000 metric tonnes daily and earn crores of rupees. The condition of the people of Mehsana has become very pitiable after the exploration of gas and petroleum products, ONGC has acquired land from the people at very nominal prices which is much lower than the market price so people have been deprived of farming as they have lost their land and became unemployed. Due to the wrong exploration work carried out by the ONGC, fluoride and gas has mixed up in the water wells. People are falling ill and are becoming disabled due to this fluoride mixed drinking water. People are not getting safe drinking water. They have to drink it after filtering it several times. Farmers are not getting water

for irrigation and water has become so contaminated that this water is converting fertile land into barren land. No efforts are being made to provide drinking water and to make arrangements for irrigation. Whereas prior to exploration of gas and petrol water was potable, the fields had enough water and people were healthy.

I request the Union Government through this House that on the lines of the royalty paid by ONGC to the State Government to solve these problems adequate funds should be provided to the Mehsana District directly to provide drinking water and irrigation facility and other civic amenities so that district administration should undertake the works relating to drinking water, irrigation and other facilities.

- (ii) **Need to solve the problem of shortage of electricity in National Capital Territory of Delhi.**

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Sir, with the onset of summer, the problem of electricity starts in the national capital Delhi consequently. The people have to suffer from a long spell of power cuts. As per the estimates of the State Government, the demand of power in the extreme summer has reached up to 3627 Mega Watt which may increase further up to 3900 Mega Watts in the coming days. Only 400 Mega Watt electricity is being generated in Delhi every day and remaining 2300 Megawatt electricity is supplied from the central part and from other States through the plants connected to the northern grid. As per an agreement, quota for electricity all to the States through the northern grid is fixed but due to other drawing of electricity beyond the fixed quota by the States connected to the northern grid. On the one hand, Delhi is unable to get its fixed quota of electricity and on the other hand, there is a possibility of tripping of the entire northern grid due to extremely low frequency which should be averted.

I would like to urge the Government that in addition to formulating a decisive and nation wide policy to resolve the power crisis in consultation with all the State Governments, arrangements should be made to ensure that Delhi gets its full quota of electricity and to save the northern grid from tripping.

- (iii) **Need to ensure safety of Indian Nationals working in Afghanistan**

[English]

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam): Recent brutal killing of an engineer from Andhra Pradesh is one more dastardly and uncivilized act of terror by Taliban fundamentalists. This is not for the first time that

*Not recorded.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

such a thing has happened, on 6.12.2003, two Indians were abducted; on 8.11.2003, a telecom engineer was shot dead; on 19.11.2005, Maniappan Kutty was abducted and killed; In February, 2006, Bharat Kumar was killed in a blast; and, now, Suryanarayana has been beheaded. Apart from this, very recently, ten Indian doctors working in various hospitals of Afghanistan received threats from Taliban. These clearly justify the apprehensions of Indians, particularly from Andhra Pradesh about their security, because, out of 3,000 odd workers working in Government and non-Government sectors, more than 1,000 are from Andhra Pradesh.

It is good that Government of Andhra Pradesh announced Rs. 5 lakh compensation. Government of India is also extending financial package to families of the victims. This is not the way out. The way out is to provide more security to our workers. It is good that 200 ITBP personnel are providing security to workers who are working on behalf of Government of India. But the fate of nearly 2,000 people, majority of whom are from Andhra Pradesh, is at stake since ITBP covers only Government officials. Hence, I impress upon Government of India to depute more ITBP personnel to provide security to Indians working in non-Government sector and also insist on private companies employing Indians to put in place comprehensive security measures for safety of workers working in various projects in Afghanistan. The Government of India should also request Afghanistan Government to extend local security to Indians working in Afghanistan.

(iv) Need to introduce EMU and DMU on Kota-Ratlam and Indore-Ujjain sectors respectively

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, there is a need to introduce a new passenger train, unreserved passenger coaches, upgradation of the platforms at Railway Station, passengers waiting rooms, drinking water facilities, shades at platforms to protect the passengers from the heat and rain, lighting at Railway Stations and to lay concrete to beautify the courtyards for all convenience of the passengers in Western and West Central Railway Zones.

In view of the above, there is a need to make necessary arrangements at Rawa-Charod, Unhel, Nagda,

Ujjain stations under Western Railway and Mahidpur Road, Vikram Garh Aalot and other stations under West Central Railways.

There is a need to introduce an EMU Service between Kota-Ratlam and a DMU passenger train service on Indore-Ujjain Metre gauge line.

A memorandum has been submitted to the hon'ble Minister of Railways personally in this regard and a request has been made to extend the railway facilities in Madhya Pradesh.

So, hon'ble Minister of Railways is requested to grant approval for the convenience of the railway passengers and oblige.

(v) Need to lay a new railway line between Bilaspur and Mandla via Mungeli-Jabalpur in Chhattisgarh

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the matter of laying a new railwayline from Bilaspur to Mandla Jabalpur via Mungeli Jabalpur in Chhattisgarh State is under consideration of the Central Government after conducting a survey. A survey was conducted around 50 years back as well. The survey has been conducted many a times but it has not been approved so far. Crores of rupees have been spent in this regard. The distance of the above route is 115 k.m. and on completion of which facility of transportation in the entire country shall be available for the area by connecting Bilaspur to Jabalpur. The people will get the facility of Railways on the routes like Bilaspur to Mandla, Jabalpur to Durg Amarkantak, Bilaspur to Mumbai, Bilaspur-Delhi, Bilaspur-Kolkata, Bilaspur-Kamakhya Tirupati Balaji, Bilaspur-Lucknow and Varanasi etc. whereby the people of Chhattisgarh will get some earning and industries and their financial position will also improve. After laying the above line, the revenue of Railway will increase due to transportation of Coal, Bauxite, iron and Dolomite from the mines of Bilaspur Mandla and iron from the Bhilai plant.

So, I request the Government to approve the proposal to lay a new railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla by reconsidering the survey and by submitting it to the Planning Commission.

(vi) Need to sanction 'special package' for overall development of Rajasthan

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Sir, Rajasthan is the biggest State of the country areawise.

[Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas]

Two third of its area is desert and 5 Districts of the State are predominantly inhabited by tribals.

The famine is the recurrent feature of the State almost every year. Immediately after the independence, a scheme was formulated for the construction of Rajasthan Canal (Presently called Indira Gandhi Canal) to make the State green and prosperous. This project has not been completed so far due to lack of funds and inadequate cooperation of the centre even after the lapse of 50 years. Rajasthan has never been able to get its full share of water from this project due to increased demand of water from Punjab and Haryana.

This proves that it is a backward State. So, I urge that if the backwardness of Rajasthan is to be removed and it is to be brought at par with prosperous States, it is imperative for the Government to release a special package for the State by bringing it in the category of special States on the times of north-eastern States.

I hope that on my request the Government shall immediately allocate an amount for the development of the State by including it in the category of special States.

(vii) Need for taking over of Irrigation project at Bhandara In Chandrapur district, Maharashtra by the Central Government

PROF. MAHADEV RAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, there is a rain water irrigation project namely 'Gosekhurd Project' in the Bhandara Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. Smt. Indira Gandhi laid the foundation of that project in 1980. That project was called Indira Sagar. The cost of this project was worked out to be 225 crore rupees in 1986. The cost of the project escalated up to Rs. 2100 crores in 1996. The work of this project was almost stopped after 1998. Presently, the cost of this project has been worked out to be around rupees 4500 crore. The Government has provided insufficient assistance to this project so far. This project will benefit three districts i.e. Bhandara, Chandrapur and Garhchiroli. Sale-purchase of the farmers' land is banned since 1980. There is widespread resentment among the people. The Central Government should take this project under its direct control and provide full financial assistance to it by recognizing it as a Centrally Sponsored project. Only after that project affected people will get justice.

(viii) Need to make available LPG connection on demand

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, earlier LPG connection was granted immediately on demand and LPG was easily available too, but now, even the applications for LPG are not being received. At present the supply has been stopped and even after request for supply by the consumers LPG is being provided only after 15-20 days which is increasing black marketing. Earlier, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister assured on 1st January, 2006 in the Winter Session that LPG connection would be provided as demand and there would be no difficulty in the supply of LPG, but after three months, situation has worsened instead of showing improvement. If this scenario is likely to prevail, then LPG coupon system for MPs should be started as it was done in past so that the persons in need of LPG may get the connection.

Through the House, I request the Union Government that gas connections should be made available immediately on demand and LPG should be provided to people in just days time after receiving the request. If there is no likelihood of any improvement in the condition, then the coupon system under the quota regime should be started for the MPs.

(ix) Need to increase the honorarium being given to Indian soldiers who worked for Allied Forces during Second World War

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, before independence, the soldiers of Indian Army were awarded many medals for their gallantry and even in present time, many honours are conferred on the soldiers and they are also provided financial assistance.

In the second world war, the soldiers of allied forces who displayed exemplary courage were accorded 10 rupees per month as financial assistance. In the name of rewards for their bravery in war which has since been increased to Rs. 100 per month is too small a sum to help those courageous soldiers in their struggle for sustenance. The employee who would have got Rs. 10 as salary in the past is now drawing salary of not less than Rs. 10,000. There are no pension benefits for soldiers who were awarded this reward. The number of these gallant soldiers is small and only a few are surviving at present. They have a long pending demand that they should be provided amount equal to pension calculated at present scales so that they can take care of themselves and their family.

Therefore, I demand that this reward for gallantry during war should be increased from current Rs. 10 per month to Rs. 10,000 per month.

(x) Need to start work on Katihar-Jogbani broad gauge railway line

SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, Katihar-Jagbani broad gauge railway line was to be started in 2005 only but because of wrong policies of this Government, this railway line has yet not been completed. This year also sufficient funds have not been allocated for completion of this railway line. Even my constituency, Araria is already a very most backward area. As it is adjoining to Nepal, Moist activities are also on full swing there. No work is being done for the progress of this area. If broad gauge railway line becomes operational then it would provide a means for subsistence to the people of this area.

Therefore, I would like to attract the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways and request him to take immediate steps to make the Katihar-Jogbani broad gauge railway line operational at the earliest.

(xi) Need to have a time bound programme for completion of Road Over Bridges work in Kerala

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to bring attention of the Railway Minister regarding the problem of ROBs in Kerala. Though number of ROBs are included in the Budget but the construction work on most of them has not yet started. It is in fact that in my own constituency, the ROBs at Kotti at Payyanur and Trikaripur, Cheruvathur, Nileshwaram, Padankkavu, Kottikulam and Hossagadi have not yet started.

Though the State Government has completed the work in Bekkal ROB, the Railway Ministry has not taken the initiative to complete their share. Though the ROBs like Nileshwaram and Padnakkavu are in the National Highway, the Railway Ministry has not taken any active steps to complete the work. This really causes severe hardships to the people.

So, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to implement time-bound programme to complete the construction work of ROBs.

(xii) Need to amend People's Representation Act, 1950 with a view to provide voting rights to Non-resident Indians

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): It has been a longstanding demand of the Kerala Government and people of Kerala to provide NRIs the right to vote and this has been raised in Lok Sabha several times. But the Government has not taken any steps so far. The Kerala Legislative Assembly has also passed a resolution in this regard. The NRIs are citizens of India and their names may be included in the voters list in place where they normally resided before going abroad. By giving voting rights to the NRIs we will be fulfilling our constitutional obligation to the citizens of India. Therefore, I request the Government of India to include the names of NRIs in voters list and to allow them to cast their votes if they are present in India at the time of elections, by making appropriate amendments in the People's Representation Act, 1950 and thereby fulfilling the aspirations of millions of Indian citizens abroad.

(xiii) Need to ensure that the number of seats available in different disciplines in Allahabad University is not reduced

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, Allahabad University is the most popular university among the youth of North India. Keeping in view the feelings of the people, the Government of India has taken over its management in its own hands. The youth of North India hoped that this would improve the working of the University but it is a matter of regret that the seats are being reduced in all the disciplines from the next academic session. It has spread resentment in the youth. Keeping in view the feelings of the people, atleast the number of seats available last year, all the disciplines should not be reduced and steps should be taken to improve the academic atmosphere of the university.

(xiv) Need to clear the project for development of ravine area into a cultivable land in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): A large part of my constituency, Etawah is ravine area and the farmers here to face extreme difficulties because of scarcity of water and land being barren in the Chambal valley adjoining Madhya Pradesh. A project worth Rs. 50 crores for the development of this area was prepared by

[Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya]

the concerned department and submitted before the Rural Development Ministry. But, till date no progress has been made in this regard.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Rural Development Minister to oblige me by sanctioning the project for turning the infertile land of the ravine area of my constituency into cultivable land and help in solving this problem.

(xv) Need for Implementation of 'Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in Samastipur district, Bihar

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is an ambitious project of the Union Government under which the UPA Government had promised to electrify all the villages by the year 2003. I want to state this with regard to Samastipur district of Bihar that even after the tenure of two years of this Government, no initiative has been taken for the electrification of villages in this area. I request the hon'ble Minister of Power to take concrete steps in this direction and achieve the targets within stipulated time.

(xvi) Need to develop and beautify 'Kabir Chaura' at Maghar in Khallilabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khallilabad): Sir, 'Kabir Chaura', the Nirwan Sthali (salvation site) of Mahatma Kabir Dasji at Maghar in my parliamentary constituency Khallilabad is an important tourist place. It is a unique junction of Hindu-Muslim unity. The followers of Kabir visit Kabir Chaura at Maghar from many countries of the world to draw inspiration from the messages of Kabirdas ji.

Every day, thousands of local people alongwith domestic and foreign tourists throng this place. 'Maghar Mahotsava' is organized at the Nirwan Sthali of Kabir Dasji, every year from 12th to 20th January.

Sir, certain activities are organized by the Departments of Tourism and Horticulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh at this important tourist place which are only nominal. Nothing has been done to provide facilities to the people in view of the huge congregation of local people and tourists over here. The people of my constituency have been making a long standing demand for the beautification of the age old Kabir Chaura.

Therefore, I urge the Government to initiate the beautification drive of Kabir Chaura Maghar in order to develop it as a national level tourist spot.

(xvii) Need to take steps for bird conservation management through community participation with Bio-diversity Authority of India as the nodal agency

(English)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Degraded and neglected mangrove forests should not be converted for any other use. Government should bring a list that demarcates and recognizes the sites. There is a need to introduce rights based regimes in place of open access regimes and exclusive government controlled regimes for conservation of mangroves, atleast in the unprotected areas. I would urge upon the Central Government and respective coastal State Governments to provide financial and technical resources to village panchayats for mangrove regeneration and afforestation with high priority. There is a need to take stock of the dwindling population of threatened mangrove species and therefore it should be enlisted in the schedules of Wild Life Protection Act of 1972. There is a need to implement the bio-diversity conservation and management in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, as required by the Bio-diversity Act, 2002. Since the natural resources are fast depleting and livelihood insecurity is a massive issue, implementation should start this year itself by establishing State level boards and bio-diversity management committees. There is a need to identify all bird congregation and nesting sites in their respective coast areas and steps be taken to initiate bird conservation management through community participation. It is a matter of deep concern about the drastic reduction of bird population. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to promote network of bird sites or a bird corridor in East Coast in partnership with communities, institutions and NGOs keeping Bio-diversity Authority of India as the nodal body.

(xviii) Need to take up the issue of returning of important articles related to the lives of Gurus preserved in British Museum in London with the Government of United Kingdom

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Prince Charles of Britain, during his recent visit to Anandpur Sahib in Punjab has assured President and

General Secretary of Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee to provide all possible help to Sikh Community settled globally on issues related to their identity as well as projection against discrimination and also that Britain would consider returning important articles related to the lives of Gurus preserved in the British Museum in London.

I would request the Central Government to take up the matter with the U.K. Government and a detailed written representation be made in consultation with the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. As the matter is connected with the sentiments and emotions of entire Sikh Community, Government should take early necessary action in the matter.

- (xix) **Need to provide special economic package for development of historical and religious tourist places in Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Sir, Rajmahal has been a historical capital during the Mughal era. This place had an underground link with Murshidabad in West Bengal. However, the ancient historical heritage, the fort and the ruins of the city are being ravaged by commercial mining and due to lack of repair.

The land in Rajmahal is dug for making clay utensils, which is adversely affecting this historical heritage. This area has been linked with NF. 80 however, the road is in a dilapidated condition.

Several tourist places in Jharkhand and Santhal Parganas are located in Godda, Sahibganj, Pakud and Dumka districts which are replete with mountains, forests and brooks but these have not attracted the attention of the tourists. Several areas of Jharkhand are endowed with panoramic natural beauty yet they have not achieved the status of a tourist place.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to deploy expert groups and provide special economic package for the upgradation and development of historical and religious places in Jharkhand particularly the ancient historical heritage of Rajmahal and link the area with roads in order to make them easily accessible.

- (xx) **Need to check extensive erosion being caused by Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries in Assam**

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): I like to draw attention of the Government regarding extensive erosion caused by the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries affecting more than 28% of the total cultivable area in Assam causing a serious threat to the future economy of the State. Due to continued erosion and diversion of the river thousands of families become homeless every year forcing them to stay over roads and embankments. The Brahmaputra Board had drawn 49 sub-basin Master Plans, which contained flood management, anti erosion as well as river training work along with 34 nos. of Drainage Development Schemes most of which are yet to be sanctioned.

The alarming rate of erosion posing threat to the existence of world's largest river island Majuli, needs highest attention of the Government. In the name of conducting model study the actual protection works are not started by the Board. The frequent change of the Chairman of Brahmaputra Board is another reason for delayed implementation of the projects. The erosion of Brahmaputra at various vulnerable points like Rohmorja of Dibrugarh, Ananta Nala of Tinsukia, Matmora of Dhakuakhana, Palashbari of Kamrup, Bohari of Barpeta, Hatimora of Nowgaon and various township from Sadia to Dhubri also in various segments of Barak river has become a serious concern.

May I therefore, urge upon the Government to take up a National programme only for the erosion control and river training in the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries and to implement them urgently. The task force report on erosion should be implemented immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has been agreed by all parties that we should take up Item No. 21. But I have also committed that I would allow three-four matters of urgent public importance. Therefore, let us take up those matters first and go to Item 21 immediately after that.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising an undisputable issue which every Hon'ble Member would agree with. The inflation is soaring unabated in the country today which is causing great inconvenience particularly to the poor. The prices of all the consumer commodities are sky rocketing. The price of wheat which was Rs. 7.50 per kilogram earlier has now increased to Rs. 10 per kg and the price of Sharbati wheat has now touched Rs. 15-20 per kg. The price of Chanadal has increased from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 per kg that of Arhar dal has increased from Rs. 25 to Rs. 55 per kilogram. The price of Urad Dhuli has risen from Rs. 35 to Rs. 65 per kg and that of Moong Dal from Rs. 27 to Rs. 55 per kilogram. Similarly the price of Chana Sabut has increased from Rs. 18 to Rs. 30 per kilogram ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members please keep silence.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Similarly, the prices of sugar, rice, soya oil and sunflower oil have increased to Rs. 25, 25, 50 and 70 per kilogram respectively. The prices of tomatoes, potatoes and onions have increased so much that they have belied the expectations of the people. Every vegetable has become so costly that it has now become costly to eat two square meals per day and the Government is importing 50 lakh tones of wheat to further devastate the farmers. Inflation has soared sky high in Rajasthan. Alongwith this the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene oil and LPG have been increased three-four times in a year which would deprive the poor people of all these things. The rising prices are not reined in and this situation continues to prevail then the life a poor man will become even more difficult. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take immediate measures to check inflation so that the poor people can make their ends meet.

I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

13.01 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Alleged threat to the life of Dr. Mohd. Shahabuddin,
MP lodged in Siwan Jail, Bihar and need for proper
medical care to the Member**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I would like to draw your attention and that of the Government towards an immediate matter of urgent importance. The hon'ble Member Shri Shahabuddin was shifted to Siwan Jail from Bhagalpur Jail in Bihar on 9th May 2006 in pursuance of the Court's order. On the midnight of 10th May 2006 around 12.30 am the local DSP accompanied by a dozen of armed policemen got the jail opened and misbehaved with Mohd. Shahabuddin, threatened him and humiliated him. It is a very shameful incident. There is a conspiracy underway in the jail to get the Hon. MP Mohd. Shahabuddin killed. On the other hand there is a threat to the life of his family members. The hon'ble Member is suffering from acute pain in the spinal chord. He is in a delicate state and the Jail medical Superintendent and other Health experts in Patna are of the opinion that if he'd not be given timely medical treatment he may suffer a paralytic attack. It is a very painful situation. The case against him is a different issue but should not the hon'ble Member get timely medical treatment to prevent him from paralysis? Therefore, I would request the Central Government to send for his medical report and make arrangements for his security and provide him proper medical care in a hospital ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All these mini meetings will not be permitted inside the House.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of all the Members. So, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that there should be a ruling to this effect so that the hon'ble Member's life could be saved. If the Hon'ble Member would not get proper treatment there may be further

complications and its entire onus will be on the State Government. He is being harassed by a State Government official of DSP rank. That DSP, an official of Bihar Government is committing such an act of audacity. Therefore, I would demand a ruling on this issue from your side.

It has created a very sensitive situation. I have not spoken on the matters which are subjudice.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been written by the doctor. You please see this report. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*English*]

Hon. Member, you are not helping your colleague. I have already issued instructions.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: As I said in the morning, I have already issued instructions. I have called for a detailed report, and I am also requesting the hon. Home Minister to see that immediately the report is given and necessary intervention is made.

I am saying that in the House itself; and certainly I have already issued instructions that all possible care should be taken of his health. Therefore, this is utmost I can do and I am doing it. But you felt that it had to be mentioned, and you have mentioned it.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): We will get the information and we will issue the instructions also.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, my name may also please be associated with it.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Alok Kumar Mehta, who had already given notices will be associated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): My name be added with this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please send a slip with this.

Also the names of Slid Raghunath Jha, Shri R.K. Rana, Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh, Shri Vijoy Krishnan and Shri Giridhari Yadav are associated on this issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today, the price rise in the country is at its peak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We can cover so many more items, and transact more business if you only follow the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the prices are rising in the country due to the wrong policies of Central Government and present system of on line trading and the public is crying for help. There is still apprehension of price rise of petrol, diesel, gas and kerosene and the Government lack any policy on this front. Today, India depend on agriculture too. Today, the situation in economic development as well as in other areas is not good. There is monopoly of multinational companies in the market and the price rise is at its peak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please have silence in the House. What is this going on?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: So far as the question of articles to be used for crops of farmers is concerned, the prices of fertilizers, seeds and others manures have doubled over the last two years and the prices of construction materials have also gone up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time for debate.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The prices of the daily use commodities are increasing year by year. I demand, through you, from the Government to formulate a concrete policy in this regard so that price rise can be put under control.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the recent outbreak of malaria in Assam. From the month of March, this epidemic had started and it has taken more than 700 lives. The worst affected areas are Lakhimpur and Tamulpur where more than 600 people have died so far. This epidemic could not be controlled due to serious lapse of the Government both at the Centre and at the State. Preventive measures for the malaria control were inadequate. The spraying equipment in spare were also not sent either from the Centre or the State Government. Due to inappropriate handling of the situation and also due to inadequate number of technicians and the staff, the situation could not be controlled so far.

A large number of children have died because the required numbers of paediatric doses were not available; and also the injections were not sent from the Centre.

Sir, I would, therefore, request the Health Ministry to take up the matter very seriously and take stern action against all those officers for their lapse due to which we have lost a large number of lives. More than 15,000 people have been detected positive and are in different hospitals. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to take this matter very seriously and grant, at least, Rs. 5 lakh per affected family so that they can be rehabilitated. I would also request the Government to send enough number of experts from Delhi to control the situation. There should be a proper co-ordination from the Centre, which would help in controlling the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Other Special Mentions will be taken up before the adjournment of the House today.

13.11 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, House shall take up Item No.21 of today's List of Business—Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to bring before the House that the Item No. 21 which is listed in today's Agenda for the Constitution Amendment, the hon. Home Minister shall explain the reasons; and then one or two speakers would participate. But, Sir, I have been approached by the leaders of the Opposition parties and a few other groups that the voting part of this Constitution Amendment Bill may be deferred and taken up on 22nd May at 1.00 p.m so that all would be assembled to consider and pass it.

MR. SPEAKER: I think all sections of the House are agreeable to it. Voting on Item 21 will be on 22nd May at 1 o'clock.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Matters under Rule 377?

MR. SPEAKER: They have already been laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration. "

The proviso to article 164 (1) of the Constitution of India in its present form makes it mandatory for the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa to have a Minister in charge of tribal welfare, who may, in addition be the incharge of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes or any other work. The Constitution however does not debar States, other than three States mentioned in the proviso, to have such Ministers in charge of tribal welfare.

13.13 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The new States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand came into being *w.e.f.* 1.11.2000 and 15.11.2000 respectively,

consequent upon the enactment of the Madhya Pradesh (Reorganisation) Act, 2000 and the Bihar (Reorganisation) Act, 2000. With the creation of these two new States, a sizeable proportion of the Scheduled areas of the erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh stand transferred to Chhattisgarh and the entire Scheduled area of the former Bihar State stands transferred to the newly formed Jharkhand State. The Scheduled area States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, Order 2003, PO 192, specifies the Scheduled areas in respect of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. As per census figures of 2001, the percentage of the Scheduled Tribes to the total population in Bihar is only 0.9 while in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh the percentage of tribal population is 26.3, 31.8 and 20.3 respectively.

The Constitution (Ninety fourth Amendment) Bill, 2006 seeks to exclude Bihar from the purview of provision to article 164 (1) and to extend the same provisions to the newly formed States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Sir, I commend the Constitution (Ninety fourth Amendment) Bill, 2006 to the august House for consideration and passing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): I support this Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I would like to refer to some of the points based on the constitutional provisions made in respect of the scheduled areas and the Scheduled Tribes.

Under Article 164 a special provision is made for the appointment of the Minister in charge of tribal welfare, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Even without this provision a number of States were already having such Ministers in their States. When a constitutional provision is made to provide for the Minister in charge of the weaker sections, I think there is some constitutionality in this provision. All these areas come under scheduled areas. The scheduled area is not the area demarcated by the States. The scheduled area is demarcated on the basis of Article 244 (1) and (2) by the Parliament.

Therefore, when there will be change of areas either within the Scheduled Areas or there is addition or deletion of Scheduled Area, it will have to come to Parliament for inclusion or exclusion. But there are a number of States,

especially Orissa and Chhattisgarh which have demarcated the Scheduled Areas within the Scheduled Area by dividing the districts. The Koraput District has the district boundary on the basis of article 244(1). It is done by Parliament. But, now, they have divided it into four different districts. I would like to know whether it will be treated undivided Koraput district or through an enactment this will be brought to Parliament for these four districts saying that all these boundaries have been changed. Unless that is done, their constitutionality will be a problem for us. Like that, the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh has been divided into two-three districts. It falls in the Scheduled Area. That will have to come to Parliament for demarcation of the districts. Therefore, when there will be de-limitation, I would like to know whether that district will be considered as a unit for the purpose of reservation. If so, whether it will be treated one district as per the Constitution or the Presidential Order or they would be treated as four separate districts. So, these are the constitutional problems. What about the Ministers who will be in charge of Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand or Orissa or Madhya Pradesh or some other State to represent the tribals as well as Scheduled Areas? There is a provision for the Minister for the Scheduled Area. Without that also, there are a number of Ministers in other States also.

There are words 'Scheduled Area' in other provisions of Constitution also. Article 339 says that a Commission will be there for Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes which would be for administration. Article 244(1) says that the administrative control will be by the Governor. For that also, an interpretation will have to be there whether the President of India will ask the Governor directly to give the annual report or the Governor would *suo motu* submit the Annual Report of the administration of Scheduled Areas. It is only for Scheduled Areas. There is a provision that the Council of Ministers will have to recommend or consider either in the State or at the Centre while giving the Administrative Report. But the administrative report is not the development report. It is the administration of Scheduled Areas for good governance. It comes under the President as well as the Governor of those States which are having Scheduled Areas.

Article 275 is very clear. There is a financial provision, namely, that the funds from the Consolidated Fund of India can be paid for two purposes. One is for the socio-economic development and the second for strengthening the administration of Scheduled Area. When we go through the report, we find that we have not received

[Shri Giridhar Gamang]

any report from any State regarding receiving funds for strengthening the administration of Scheduled Area under article 275(1). Though there are a number of schemes for socio-economic development but the governance of Scheduled Area comes under not only the Governor but also the President of India. There is a provision in the Constitution but it will have to be interpreted. Article 243 is regarding Panchayats, where we have got the Panchayat but it is not applicable to Scheduled Areas. So, we have to extend that through PESA Act. It is also a provision which protects the interest of Scheduled Tribes. We have got the Sixth Scheduled Areas. They have got administration in such a way that they have got the self-governance but under Panchayats there is a provision for local self-governance. Under Fifth Schedule for the first time Panchayats are extended to Scheduled Areas in the country. Some of the States have neither implemented the PESA Act properly nor they have got a separate Act in the State according to article 243. It will have to be a separate act for extending the Panchayats to Scheduled Areas. The extension of PESA Act is definitely a protective measure for the Scheduled Tribes in the Fifth Scheduled Area and not only development.

While supporting the Bill, I would urge the Minister to see that those who would be interpreting some of the constitutional provisions to implement it, they should do it in such a way that there is a good impact without any adverse implications.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to go through the Constitutional provisions meant for the Scheduled Tribes in the Scheduled areas as well as through the other provisions also which are meant to protect the interest of the tribal people not only economically but also from the exploits in whichever manner it takes place against them.

However, I support this amendment. It is a Constitutional amendment. Now, it has been proposed to have a Minister particularly meant to look after the interest of the tribals in the Scheduled Areas in these four States, but there are also tribals in other parts of the country and I am sure the interest of those tribals in other places would be looked after by other Departments.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I welcome this amending Bill brought forward by the hon. Home Minister. But the brevity of this paper shows that not much thought has gone into this. It is a cosmetic change, a very superficial enactment. As has been pointed

out by the previous speaker, this amending Bill could probably be construed as a Bill meant to create a constitutional post in every Ministry of every State included under the purview of this Bill. The Government is enacting by law that wherever, in whichever State, namely, in the States of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, a post of a Minister will be created who will be mandatorily there to satisfy the Constitutional requirements. It is good to have new Ministers which will entail having new Secretaries, new clerks, new peons and new offices. More the bureaucracy, the merrier the situation. But what do we aim to achieve by this? Has the Government, at any place, clarified that a Minister who will be appointed to look after the well-being of the aboriginals or the tribal people of India of a particular State or area will mandatorily be a person from a reserved constituency? Will he be a person belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community? Or, will he be somebody else who would be put there to look after the well-being of the tribals? This aspect needs to be clarified. What we have seen in the past is that we have only shed crocodile tears for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the people belonging to the Other Backward Castes. We saw it even today. But in reality none of the gestures that the Government tries to show to these people through these Acts and policies percolates down to the ones for whom they are meant.

Sir, we have not made any concerted efforts to develop the languages and dialects of the tribals in many areas of India. In my State of Orissa, as far as I am aware there are at least 8-plus distinct languages or dialects of the tribal people. The State of Orissa has a large chunk of tribal population. The tribals play a very major role in our socio-economic development, in our political life. They are an integral part of the State of Orissa. If you would ever had been to the State of Orissa you would have seen that the tribals of Orissa are unlike the tribals of any other place in the sense that they do not need mercy; they do not need that somebody should spoon feed them.

They have the capacity and the tenacity to stand up and voice their opinion to be heard socially, economically and politically and even in Oriya literature, the tribals have played a very major role. We have had the pleasure and honour of having Dr. Giridhar Gamang as our Chief Minister at a very crucial stage in the history of the State. He has been an able Chief Minister and has projected the fact that tribals in Orissa do matter. On the

other hand, what have the consequent Union Governments done for the tribals in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa? As the hon. Finance Minister is also in the House, I would like to point out one fact. Has there ever been an effort made by this Government or the previous Government of giving special packages to the States which have large chunks of tribal population? No steps have been taken to develop their language, to allow them to lead their own lives by giving them economic freedom. It is only possible when special packages to States like Orissa are given to develop the tribal areas predominantly. Only then concentrated developmental activities can take place. It is a pity and you can yourselves see that, in areas like Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi where we have large chunks of tribal people, development is very tardy. It cannot be done only by creating a Ministry and appointing a Minister. We, the Biju Janata Dal, support the amendment but it should be very specifically mentioned that the Minister also should be a tribal. There should also be a provision that whichever State is affected by this should mandatorily have a Minister and also get a special package from the hon. Finance Minister to exclusively develop the areas where tribals are predominant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006—*cont.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us continue our discussion on the Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Bill 2006. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo to speak.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, the Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Bill,

2006 has been brought and I support it. After this Bill is passed, it is mandatory to appoint a Tribal Affairs Minister in the newly created States or in States which do not have the Tribal Affairs Minister to look into the tribal affairs, tribals' socio-economic conditions, their programmes, and development in several scheduled areas.

After the bifurcation of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh where majority of the new States which were created, they were mainly tribal dominated States like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It became mandatory that a Tribal Affairs Minister should be there to look into their affairs. Therefore, this piece of legislation has gone. But I would like to stress during the passage of this Bill that some problems have taken place, especially in the delimitation which is today going on in the country.

Sir, there is no constitutional provision to divide the tribal areas into districts. Take for example, Orissa. In Orissa, Koraput was undivided district, as was rightly pointed out by Shri Giridhar Gamang, the previous speaker and the first speaker from the Congress Party. He said that Koraput was an undivided district. Now, it has become four districts. Similar is the case with Kalahandi which was undivided. It became two districts—Kalahandi and Nawapara. By virtue of this, there has been a lot of differences in calculation of the tribal population. So, before the Delimitation Committee went into this exercise, they should have first made a constitutional amendment. I would like to read out the districts from the Annual Report, namely, the Mayurbhanj district, Sundargarh district, Koraput district, Kuchinda Tahsil in Sambalpur district, Keonjhar and Telkoi Tahsils of Keonjhar sub-division. Similarly, in Kalahandi, Thuamul Rampur block of Kalahandi Tahsil, and Lanjigarh block filling in Lanjigarh and Kalahandi Tahsils, in Bhawanipatna sub-division in Kalahandi district.

Here, my contention is that the Scheduled Areas in the State of Orissa were originally specified by the Scheduled Areas (Part A States) Order, 1950 (Constitution Order, 9) dated 23.1.1950, and the Scheduled Areas (Part B States) Order, 1950. Subsequently, it was as per the Constitution Order 109 dated 31.12.1977 after rescinding the Orders cited earlier in so far as they related to the State of Orissa.

Therefore, Sir, if the delimitation was to take place, they should have considered the areas which were before 1977 as undivided districts as one district. Undivided Koraput, undivided Kalahandi should have been taken as

[Shri Bikram Keshri Deo]

one unit for allocating seats to tribals, Scheduled Castes and general Castes accordingly. But that was not done. So, today, the problem has arisen in Kalahandi that before 1977 when this Constitution Order was promulgated, there was a tribal seat in Kalahandi known as Naria. But today, after the Delimitation Reports have come out with a preliminary Report, it is cited that the Naria seat, the tribal seat, has been missing. During the NDA Government, there was a constitutional amendment to include Scheduled Tribes which were left out into the Scheduled Tribes List so that they could get the benefits accruing to the Scheduled Tribes. Out of that, a big chunk of nearly 45,000-50,000 of Scheduled Tribes belong to the Bhadra Caste. Bhadra Caste was included at Sr. No. 143 in the Tribal List. So, the new Scheduled Tribes are to be included into the Scheduled Tribes List.

Therefore, a distortion has taken place. Here, through this Bill, I would like to demand that instead of one tribal seat in Kalahandi, there should be two tribal seats in the Assembly segment. This means, either Naria should be retained or the entire Thuamul Rampur block should be integrated into the Naria Constituency instead of it being integrated to Junagarh Constituency.

It was previously a general seat, now it has become an SC seat. Therefore, I hope my message will go to the Delimitation Commission, which is going to have its sitting shortly on 23rd of this month at Berhampur for the Southern States. I hope that the proceedings of the Parliament will be placed before the Delimitation Commissioner so that this can be considered. Besides this, Sir, as you know there is a Scheduled Castes Commission, there is a Scheduled Tribes Commission and a lot of reports come out on that. There is a Parliamentary Committee looking into the affairs of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but I am sorry to state that the main economic indicators, which are prevalent in those areas, are much below par. No health services are available. There are maximum malaria cases, maximum starvation deaths; maximum migration is taking place. The educational institutions are going without teachers. The paramedical facilities are not at all there. That is why this KVK programme was initiated for these three undivided districts of Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir. I hope that the present Government will give it an extension for another ten more years so that these tribal and scheduled areas could come at par with the other developed areas of the country and the State.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall continue this discussion on this Bill on 22nd May, 2006, as decided by the House earlier.

14.42 hrs.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 22—The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Now, I would request Shri P. Chidambaramji.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2005 to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, inter alia to:

- (a) define the expressions, 'derivative', 'repo' and 'reverse repo'
- (b) empower Reserve Bank of India to deal in derivatives, to lend or borrow securities and to undertake repo or reverse repo;
- (c) remove the lower floor and upper ceiling of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and to provide flexibility to RBI to specify CRR;
- (d) remove ambiguities regarding the legal validity of derivatives;
- (e) empower RBI to lay down policy and issue directions to any agency dealing in various kinds of contracts in respect of Government securities, money-market instruments, derivatives etc. and to inspect such agencies.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee of the Lok Sabha on Finance. The Committee has since presented its report on 1st December, 2005. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, Government proposes to amend the definitions of the expressions 'Repo' and 'Reverse Repo' so as to mean Repo—

"An instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities of the Central Government or a State Government or of such securities of a local authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government or foreign securities, with an agreement to repurchase the said securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for funds borrowed."

Reverse Repo—

"An instrument for lending funds by purchasing securities of the Central Government or a State Government or of such securities of a local authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government or foreign securities, with an agreement to resell the said securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for funds lent."

With these words, Sir, I commend that the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005 along with the amendments that I have proposed before this House be taken into consideration by this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration. "

Now, I would request Shri Vijayendra Pal Singhji.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (BHILWARA): Sir, I stand to support the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005. This Bill is important to the extent that it proposes and aims to make the regulatory powers of the Reserve Bank more effective.

Sir, the times have changed. There was a time that we nationalised the banks and all the banks of that era were nationalised. Now the time has come that the banks give better service, there is more and more Commercialisation and they face competition not just amongst the banks in India alone but also with the banks which are coming into the country from outside. There are a lot of banks, which are international banks and which are not in their own country, but they do business outside as well and it has become very necessary that the Reserve Bank of India is empowered. As very rightly put across by the Finance Minister, we need to strengthen the Reserve Bank of India.

Let me put across two or three points to the Finance Minister. There are a lot of countries which have super regulators and I do not know if the Finance Minister is thinking on those lines as well. He knows very well that in America, they have the SCC which is not just a sort of a RBI, but it is a combination of our RBI and SEBI, which, to an extent, has powers not only in the regulation of the finances but the stock market is also regulated by it. That is the impression I have and I feel that that is not just in America, but that is the case in other countries also because there is a need for coordination. Some stock market scams have occurred in our country in the past. The Finance Minister is well aware that there are times when the RBI and SEBI have to work in coordination among themselves because if coordination is not there, then some problems can arise and they can lead to scams like the ones which have occurred earlier. They can happen now also.'

Sir, I am glad and I must congratulate the Finance Minister that he made a very carefully worded, good statement only yesterday when the stock market was plummeting and the stock market revived, only his statement could make the things turn around. Usually, a Finance Minister does not do anything like that, but he has done it. I congratulate him for that.

Talking about regulation, one of the big factors in the last stock market scam that we saw was that it was started by Madhavpura Urban Cooperative Bank. Hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees could be taken out because the urban banks have a lot of money. But there are urban banks which have done a good job. Then, there are urban banks which have used the money as if it was their private family bank. They have been misusing the funds and this Bill will also be regulating that.

Sir, there was always a problem with cooperative banks. There are rural cooperative banks and there are urban cooperative banks. As far as rural cooperative banks are concerned, they have been doing a great job, but I am worried about what sort of a regulation the RBI is going to do. There are hundreds of rural cooperative banks and urban cooperative banks and it is very difficult for the RBI to look into the doings and the nitty-gritty of these banks.

That will be a problem. I think, the RBI will have to be strengthened staff-wise also to look into that or you have a different cell to look after the urban and the rural

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh]

cooperative banks. Who are the directors, what is happening, is that money being looked after by the banks themselves, or are there irregularities happening, etc. all those things are going to be a problem for the RBI because the RBI has so far only been looking after the commercial banks and not the cooperative banks.

Sir, the other thing that has come about is regarding the CRR, the ratios. I feel that the banks should be left themselves to decide on that because the banking today is not just the money coming in and going out, but it is much more than that. I remember, I was in Japan and there was a bank which was going into red. I was told that there were things like it was going to be merged or taken over by some other bank. That was the time that five Indian bankers from India, in Japan, said that they would turn around that bank. It is a case study. The Finance Minister must be knowing about it. They turned around that Bank of Japan. Today, in that bank, there is a turn around. It was going to the red. Now it is one of the most flourishing banks in Japan. This is what they have done. There is no paper work there. Everything is computerised. Even the cheque books are not there. Everything is online and that is the latest technology and that is what our IT has been able to do and our Indian bankers have been able to do in Japan. I feel that that is coming into India also.

We need at par banking. Why should the services not have at par banking? Some of the banks are doing it. I went to the SBI counter here. I asked them whether they are having at par banking. What are they thinking about? They said that they were thinking about it. So, the Indian banks have to be in competition with the banks, the state of the art banking services in the world. But we are lagging behind. If that is required, I feel, the RBI should give them more flexibility in lot of things as the hon. Minister is talking about them. I congratulate them for that and also for the new thinking of the RBI for making our banks competitive in the world atmosphere, in the times that are changing.

There was a time when one used to go abroad, there used to be the problems of dollars or foreign exchange. Now, that is going to go away, the rupee is going to be converted in any of the banks easily. Our banking system should be ready for that climate. I congratulate them once again and say that this piece of legislation was much required and it has come in time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir. It is really gratifying to note that ultimately this Bill has come. I think, with all round support from this House and also from the Upper House, it will be enacted as early as possible.

Already precious time has passed. It is more than a year. If I remember correctly, it was in 2005, in the month of May, that this Bill was placed in Parliament.

Then, this Bill had gone to the Standing Committee for deliberation. Subsequently, the Standing Committee had fully supported this Bill though there were some amendments that were proposed and they were accepted by the Government. That is how this Bill has come for discussion in this House today.

Sir, when we talk about the Reserve Bank of India, we are also reminded of its history. It was in 1935, on the auspicious day of 1st of April, this Bank was established. It was a colonial period and people had different ideas of this Central Bank. But in 1948, this Bank was nationalized. In 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution and in 1950 India became a Republic. These are the milestones for the Reserve Bank of India too and since 1950 the parliamentary democracy had come into force. In both 1950s and 1960s, the idea was inculcated in this House and also in different Legislatures that the banks also should serve the common people so that a welfare State can deliver the goods for the development of this country.

Today when a change is taking place throughout the world specially in the economic sector and also in the financial sector, we have to look at things in a post-reform economic regime. Monetary policy interventions are the only instruments available to the Government to address short-term aberrations and medium-term problems in the system. The Reserve Bank of India, by its position as the Central Bank, is the guardian of the country's banking sector. With the help of suitable monetary policy instruments, it manages and directs the various financial institutions of the country so that there is neither shortage nor oversupply of various components of money in the economy. It sees that there is neither deflation nor inflation.

With the onset of globalization, serious doubts have been expressed about the efficacy of these policy instruments and effectiveness of the Reserve Bank of India in controlling money supply and inflation. Every

student of Economics knows that inflation has two components. The first is the core component which solely depends on the balance of supply and demands of goods and services, the quantum of money in the economy and the perception about the future. This component can be, to a large extent, controlled by the Central Bank with the help of the monetary policy instruments and by the Government through administrative measures like de-hoarding and regulating the distribution of goods, and taking action against black marketeers and profiteers. Through this Bill, the Reserve Bank of India will get the flexibility to cut the Cash Reserve Ratio below three per cent and come up with new instruments for covering interest rate risks.

As I said earlier, the Standing Committee on Finance has agreed with the proposals of this Bill. In view of the large variety of products and participants that have entered into the financial market in the last 15 years and the need on the part of the Reserve Bank of India to use newer versions of financial instruments, it has become necessary that certain changes were given effect to. This Bill does that.

Through this Bill, the Government seeks to do away with the floor and ceiling limits of three and 20 per cent respectively and provide greater flexibility to the Reserve Bank of India in monetary management.

15.00 hrs.

The Reserve Bank of India, as I have said earlier, has a role as a regulator. At the same time, as was mentioned earlier by the previous speaker, RBI also has to control the flexibility of the liquid money. Here, I would like to again draw the attention over the volatility of the influx of foreign exchange and the market conditions in a fast changing economy can be expected to continue in future as the finance sector makes more and more progress to cope with any unforeseen eventualities in future such as, excess or lack of liquidity in the banking system. For effective conduct of monetary polity, there is a need to enable the RBI to determine the Cash Reserve Ratio for scheduled banks without any floor or ceiling.

Secondly, at present under Section 29A of the Securities Contracts Act, 1956, the Central Government has delegated to the Reserve Bank of India by a notification, the powers exercisable under Section 16 of that Act for regulating the transactions in money market and other instruments. Therefore, more effective regulation

of the markets for interest rate contracts including government securities and money market instruments as also derivatives, it is necessary to confer specific powers on RBI under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to lay down policy and to issue directions to agencies operating in this contract securities and derivatives.

I would like to conclude my speech by saying that this is a very good Bill and it was necessary that it should get all round support.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I stand here to support the hon. Minister of Finance. Financial sector reforms are making steady progress in India. The Indian financial markets now have more products, participants and better liquidity than before. For more operational flexibility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) needs to have enabling powers to use a larger variety of financial instruments than hitherto. Further it is necessary to remove the existing legal ambiguity in respect of certain types of Over-the Counter (OTC) derivative transactions.

The following amendments in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 have been proposed:

Define the expressions, 'derivative' 'repo' and 'reverse repo' in Section 17 of the purposes of the business of the Bank and differently in new Chapter III-D for the purposes of regulatory powers of the Bank.

To provide for specific definitions for the purposes of transactions of business of RBI under Section 17 and for regulatory powers of RBI under Chapter III-D. Presently, these terms have not been defined in this Act.

While the RBI Act permits RBI to purchase and sell securities, the provision is found inadequate to support undertaking transactions of different types. In order to remove the ambiguity in this regard and also to provide it with a legal basis, it is proposed to empower RBI to deal in derivatives and also to lend or borrow securities and to undertake repo and reverse repo transactions. So, the RBI is to be empowered to deal in derivatives.

The existing prescription of a 3 per cent floor and a ceiling of 20 per cent demand and time liabilities towards CRR restricts manoeuvrability of RBI in its monetary management.

[Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya]

So, it is to be removed. The lower floor rate of three per cent and upper ceiling of 20 per cent of Cash Reserve Ratio are to be removed to provide flexibility to RBI to specify the CRR.

The ambiguity regarding legal validity of Over The Counter derivatives has inhibited the growth and stability of the market for such derivatives. It is essential to provide clear and legal validity of such contracts.

The next is to empower the Reserve Bank of India to lay down policy and issue direction to any agency dealing in various kinds of contracts in respect of Government securities, money market instruments, derivatives and to inspect such agencies. For more effective regulation of the markets for interest rate contracts, including Government securities and money market instruments as also derivatives, it is necessary to expand and confer specific powers on the RBI to lay down policy and issue directions to the agencies operating in them.

On these grounds, I support the amending Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the generous support they have extended to this Bill. The Indian economy today is a larger economy than what it was a few years ago. The financial sector also plays a much greater part in the Indian economy than a few years ago. It is, therefore, important that the RBI has adequate powers and we also take note of developments in the financial sector which may have been strange or unanticipated when the RBI Act was passed.

The banking system finances about 35 per cent of our GDP. In some countries it finances as much as 75 per cent of GDP. The banking system is, therefore, expected to grow. It is growing and it will grow at a very fast rate to keep pace with the growth of the economy and that is how it should be in any modern economy. We, therefore, need regulators with adequate powers and with a considerable degree of autonomy to act quickly. The RBI is one such regulator. It has served this country very well. It has a very high reputation. It has a very high reputation among Central bankers all over the world.

There was a reference to a super regulator. There is no super regulator in the United States. There is one in the United Kingdom. But you cannot compare India's banking system or India's capital market with the banking

system or the capital market of the U.K. It is a much smaller country with a longer history and tradition of a free market economy and, therefore, perhaps, they can do with a super regulator. In India we have the RBI, we have the SEBI, we have the insurance regulator. But there is a High-Level Committee consisting of the Governor, RBI, the Chairman of SEBI, the Chairman of the IRDA and the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance which meets periodically, exchanges information and coordinates policy making.

With the powers that we are now giving to the RBI, I think, RBI will be armed with greater authority and autonomy to deal effectively with the subjects that have been given to it under the RBI Act.

I request the hon. House to pass this Bill with the amendments that I will move. These amendments are pursuant to the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. They are only concerning the definition. We are simply reversing what are repo and reverse repo and we have accepted the recommendation of the Standing Committee.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 17

Amendment made:

Page 2, for lines 23 to 34. *substitute,—*

(a) "repo" means an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities of the Central Government or a State Government or of such securities of a local authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government or foreign securities, with an agreement to repurchase the said securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed;

(b) "reverse repo" means an instrument for lending funds by purchasing securities of the Central Government or a State Government or of such securities of a local

authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government or foreign securities, with an agreement to resell the said securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds lent;". (3)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

Insertion of New Chapter III D

Amendment made:

Page 3, for lines 18 to 23, substitute,—

© "repo" means an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed;

(d) "reverse repo" means an instrument for lending funds by purchasing securities with an agreement to resell the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds lent;". (4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3,— for "2005", substitute "2006". (2)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: 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-sixth", substitute "Fifty-seventh". (1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: 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 P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.14 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take item no. 23, Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move:"

"That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Customs Act, 1962, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Sir, some of these amendments were hinted at by me when I moved the Budget. But I said that I would not burden the Finance Bill with these amendments. So, these amendments could be brought forward as a separate Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, and that is how this Bill was introduced in this House in the year 2005.

Sir, this Bill has gone to a Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has carefully scrutinised the Bill, and has made some recommendations. We have studied the recommendations, and we have accepted a number of recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

Sir, as far as the amendments are concerned, many of them are simply administrative and procedural in nature. For example, we are amending the definition of the Tax Recovery Officer (TRO); we have provided an exemption of the income of the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation; we are amending section 10 clause 23C to provide for one time notification of entities covered by sub-clause (iv), namely, charitable trusts and funds and institutions, of national importance or importance throughout a State or States, and trusts or institutions wholly for public religious purposes or wholly for public religious and charitable purposes. They need not apply for renewal every three years.

Sir, we have made mandatory the auditing of accounts for entities covered under sub-clauses (iv), (v), (vi) and (via) of clause 23C of section 10.

Section 12A is proposed to be amended in order to increase the threshold limit for mandatory auditing of accounts in case of charitable trusts and institutions from Rs. 50,000 to the maximum amount. This will align the limit for auditing provided in this section with the maximum amount, which is not chargeable to income tax.

We propose to amend section 35 sub-section (1) to provide that the approval to be granted by the Central Government to entities which are scientific research association or engaged in scientific research will be subject to such guidelines and conditions as maybe prescribed.

Section 35 sub-section (1) is proposed to be amended to substitute the word 'authority' by the word 'Government' in the second proviso. The power to grant approval under section 35 was earlier with the prescribed authority. Now,

the power vests with the Central Government. However, the consequential amendment was not made in section 35 (1). Therefore, we are correcting that lapse.

We are proposing to give a time limit of one year to streamline the procedure of approval and avoid delays for grant or rejection of application under section 35 (1).

Section 40 is proposed to be amended to include rent and royalty in the list of payments where non-deduction of TDS will render such payment ineligible for tax deduction.

Section 40A is proposed to be amended to substitute the words "an account payee cheque drawn on a bank or an account payee bank draft" instead of the current provision of "a crossed cheque or a crossed bank draft."

Section 56 is proposed to be amended to exclude sums received without consideration from funds, foundations, universities or other educational institutions wholly public or wholly public religious and charitable institutions referred to in clause 23C of section 10. This will address difficulties likely to be encountered by persons receiving sums of money from charitable or religious entities.

Section 56 is also proposed to be amended to increase the aggregate threshold limit from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000. The intention is to prevent split transactions, which we find is happening when the threshold is Rs. 25,000.

Section 139 is proposed to be amended to provide for mandatory filing of returns by certain entities. Section 139 is also proposed to be amended to require every University, college or institution to file a return of income.

Section 143 (3) is proposed to be amended to provide for a mechanism for withdrawal by the Central Government of the approval granted to a university under section 35 (1) where their activities are not being carried out in accordance with conditions subject to which such approval was granted. This was a clear *lacuna* in the Act, and this *lacuna* is now being removed.

Section 155 is proposed to be amended to extend the time limit for passing of rectification order. Section 194-1 is proposed to be amended to amend the definition of rent to cover different arrangements which are really a disguise for rent.

Section 194-J is proposed to be amended to bring receipts exceeding Rs. 20,000 on account of royalty and non-compete fee within the ambit of TDS.

Sections 246A and 275 are proposed to be amended to provide for revision of penalty order in cases where an appellate order is received or revision order is ordered under Sections 263 or 264.

Section 288B is proposed to be amended to provide for rounding off the tax, interest, penalty to the nearest multiple of Rs. 10 instead of the existing nearest Re. 1.

These are as far as direct taxes are concerned. As far as indirect taxes are concerned, again, the amendments are largely procedural in order to include tax administration.

Section 17 of the Customs Act is proposed to be amended by issuing a speaking order within 15 days.

Section 18 is proposed to be amended to prescribe the procedure to regulate refunds and recovery of dues after provisional assessment.

New sub-section 1A is proposed to be added to Section 28 and to Section 11A to provide for an optional scheme for voluntary payment of duty by assessees in full or in part, if they do so within 30 days of the show-cause notice.

Section 28BA and Section 11 DDA are proposed to be included in the Central Excise Act to enable the Government to attach provisionally the property belonging to a person during the pendency of assessment proceedings in order to prevent disposal of property even before adjudication is complete.

We are bringing a few Sections within the ambit of Section 104. We are expanding the ambit of Section 108 to empower the officer to summon any person for any enquiry. This is the practice, but there is no provision.

New Section 110A is being added to the Customs Act to enable provisional release of goods.

New Section 114AA is being added to the Customs Act for levy of penalty up to five times the value of the goods against improper exportation of goods.

We are providing for an issue of show-cause notice under Section 124. We are providing for an appeal under

Section 129D and Section 35E to the officer of the department.

We are enhancing the maximum period of imprisonment from six months to two years for offences under Sections 132 and 133, which are very serious offences.

We are including Section 135A for taking cognizance of any offence by the courts. We are inserting new Section 154B and 37E in the Customs Act and Excise Act for publication of names and other particulars of tax evaders.

We are curing the ambiguity in the first proviso to Section 8B concerning exemption from application of safeguard duty for developing countries.

We are amending rule 16 of the Central Excise Rules to declare the independent wire drawing units as "assesseees" under central excise.

We are proposing to amend Section 25 of the Central Sales Tax Act to provide for transfer of proceedings relating to inter-State disputes pending before an appellate authority of a State or the Union Territory to the Authority notified under Section 24 (1).

As hon. Members have noticed, all this is to improve tax administration. This is not imposing any new taxes: this is just tightening up tax administration. Over the years we have gained experience. I have also observed the Department. I think these provisions are necessary if we must tighten tax administration.

Sums are very large today and incentive to evade tax also is very large today. Earlier, if somebody paid tax of a lakh of rupees or two lakhs of rupees, he was considered a large taxpayer. Today, taxes run into hundreds of crores of rupees. Therefore, the incentive to evade is also very high. Therefore, we must tighten tax administration.

I have accepted many of the suggestions of the Standing Committee which I have mentioned here. I would request the hon. Members to discuss and then ultimately pass the Bill with the amendments that I proposed.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by Hon'ble Minister of Finance. I have gone through the provision contained in the Bill in

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

brief and I think that there is no need to have a specific discussion on it. When the Minister of Finance presented his budget, he had, indeed, shown a little example of his farsightedness and progressive approach in his budget proposals. He has shown his capacity to manage the affairs and capacity to manage financial matters very lucidly. We have seen many Finance Ministers imposing taxes and making tax administration and management more complicated and stringent. But we see a few examples of such big steps for improving and streamlining tax system in order to mitigate the problems of tax payer and give benefits to public. I and the entire House thank to Minister of Finance for it. Mr. Minister of Finance all the provisions mentioned in your speech are in detailed and the changes for which you are striking are a welcome step. I do not think that I or anybody else have capacity to understand these provisions better than you. But I have got an opportunity to comment on tax system, so I would like to draw your attention towards some points. Today, the tax payer particularly I am talking of the income tax payer has to face the lacuna existed in income tax system. Whenever, a common man has to deal, with this, he finds himself helpless. Income tax fobia is the first thing which takes place in his expression or in the offices which deal with the issue of a common man. Some years back, I used to meet with administration like a common man. I have been meeting with them in the capacity of a MP for the past time. Whenever I meet with them, I am very scared of them. I feel a short of fear like a common man that they can present any thing unknown in front of me or they may ask any question which is very difficult to make out for me. I am still doubtful about it. It is true that tax payer in this country reels under a kind of fear that he will come from Income Tax department and after this he will be in trap in the ensuing months. There should be an atmosphere of equality, humanity and sensitivity between tax administration and tax payer but it is not so. There is urgent need for such an atmosphere. The tax payer fulfills his responsibility towards country as well as law.

The Country is run with the help of money we receive from them in the form of taxes. Taxes help complete all the progressive works or schemes. Today, tax payers do not deserve mere regard but a big token of regard.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to one more aspect. I remain little bit in touch with the NGO's. During the last 8—10 years, people have created an image of such NGOs and misconceptions prevail about them. Especially, the Government thinks that

such organizations are the means of minting or hiding money and there is some big treasure abroad wherefrom the process of bringing dollars is continuously going on. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, there are many-a-people in the country who broad a sense of service somewhere in their mind and keep themselves engaged in service to the nation by small modes and from their native places through all these organisations or likewise institutions. Whenever such organizations get into contact with the tax administration, they have to face difficulties. I would not like to go into detail, while telling about one of my experiences. Three months ago, when I met the people at the helm of tax administration in Delhi regarding the organizations known to me, I had to give a clue of my position or my chartered accountant had to use such influences which otherwise could have been avoided. Although I know that this is a sensitive matter but such incidents do occur. I am talking of small organizations. Big organizations or tax payers about whom the hon'ble Finance Minister has rightly said that although the number of such big tax payers has increased now but most of them prefer to avoid or evade tax. To avoid it, loophole in the provisions made in this regard would be checked. Besides, it is also imperative to streamline the taxation system. For nearly 15 years, since when the country has started looking at the taxpayers in some different way, the point arose time and again that we have to sensitise the tax administration, tax payers are to be given a name by which paying tax becomes a matter of prestige, a thing of honour. But even at present, it is not true in practical sense. I know that the hon'ble Minister of Finance is very well aware of these things. He is also aware of all inbuilt practical problems in the relevant provisions where a common man faces difficulty in proving himself honest before or after paying tax. I would humbly request to delve over such cases where big people who even after having capacity also avoid paying custom duty or evade tax. Many businessmen, who are well versed with the entire structure can detect several loopholes to their benefit. A common man has to face such tax administration at some point of time with whom otherwise it is difficult to arrange a meeting. Keeping all these things in mind the honourable Minister of Finance should also bring such provision. I know that the House will support him entirely.

The honourable Minister of Finance should be welcomed and given thanks in true sense to introduce this Bill.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (CHIMMOOR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, chidambaljmji is a renowned economist of the country. I do not think that there will be a great benefit by introducing this Bill. I deliberately used this word because he had done great job for last many years, but today people accompanying him from left to right are not letting him to the job. Because of it he has failed.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Right or left, who are such people.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I leave it to on to decide. I was telling and I think that this bill has been brought to make tax system of the country simple but the fact is that taxpayers are very disturbed due to different system of taxation at different places. Let us discuss from metropolitan cities. Toll tax, sales tax and service tax system are there. Then, thereafter taxpayers have to surrender due to different taxing system of Income tax in direct tax. There should be tax collection system at one place in the country, can we accept a system for this purpose? In Israel, there is single system for distribution of whole collected tax at one place either it is Corporate tax or State tax or Central tax. The taxpayers know it directly or indirectly about the tax likely to be paid in this system. But there due to direct tax how much amount is debited from taxpayers pocket and when budget of tax payers get upset, taxpayers became worried in this regard. Thereafter Government accepts the matter of tax evasion. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, Rajiv Gandhi had said that only ten percent money of expenditure goes to public. It means that ninety percent money get converted into black money. Do, you think that black money will be completely curbed by the initiative taken to formulate the scheme in this system because tax system and entire laws are failed in such country where black money runs like parallel system. Whether we can think like that? I would like to submit to the Government and this House for this purpose that a system should be explored in this regard by way of consideration for four to six months, so that parallel black money of the country be washed out. Many a times efforts have been made in this regard after independence of the country that the persons having black money have been persuaded to make their money white.

But it did not take place and there was no solution or result of it. It seems to me that our country will top the list among the nations of the world about tax evasion. Due to this very reason the entire economy of our country

goes waste. I think we should discuss this matter keeping in mind the above-mentioned issue. We think it beforehand that he is a tax evader and want to implement it in a reverse way by starting it from here in a wrong manner. Thus, we should consider it in this way and should also call for it in the same way.

As far as this call is concerned, an honourable member has just said that one shudders at the thought of visiting Income Tax office. The people have fear in their mind with regard to officers and that fear is dispelled away from the minds of the people and they are induced to pay their income taxes and simplification of tax system made it will fetch sixty seventy, eighty or five percent tax to the state exchequer. All these taxes are paid up, but in a different way, you should consolidate whatever you have to take. You will see the good result for the same and people will also came to know that as to how any percent of tax goes in a direct and indirect way.

Sir, I would like to submit two or three points other than this. You levied two percent tax on Urban Cooperative Bank. You should reconsider it with cool mind. This is a matter which pertains to Urban Cooperative Bank and that is why I had said that I would talk about it with a difference. Urban Cooperative Banks are not profit-making banks, they are not profit-making institutions. But, they are meant for service to the people. There should be a check on them. I approve of it, but control can be made in a different way. It is wrong to assume that account book will be sent to us as income tax has been levied on it. You levied taxes on charitable institutions; we forbade you to do so, but you did not pay heed to our point. You think that these trivial points will fill up your treasure. It will not take place, but on the reverse, it will start the process of getting it vacant.

The third point which I want to elaborate is about Cooperative Banks. You have no control over them and this is an issue which is not connected with this Bill. You announced in connection with Cooperative Banks that rate of interest would be seven percent. But, it did not happen so. We had suggested you that the State Cooperative Banks should be allowed to function in the spirit of only banks and its powers in the area of distribution system like State Cooperative Bank, District Cooperative Bank, Primary Cooperative Society should be reduced by one Stage. But, nothing has been thought in this regard by the Minister. You should have made the whole process simplified but nothing is being done. But, it seems to me that the steps being taken by you in this regard will

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

ultimately not be successful. I understand that you should constitute an expert committee on tax simplification and work on the recommendation of that committee you constituted a Task Force Committee, when you become the Minister of Finance, but it produced no results. On the contrary, you declared that Cooperative Banks were a State subject. Thus, you got rid of the entire issue. It seems to me that it will be an act of deceiving the entire nation as well as one's conscience in the name of simplification of things. So, you should study the entire matter with a different approach. I conclude my speech here by calling for this matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please be brief.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I too want to get this bill passed before 4 p.m. I have one more speaker to speak on this.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I would not take much time. I support the Bill.

As promised, the Minister has brought certain amendments in the Taxation laws. I think in the coming days also he will have to look afresh into certain more areas. On the philosophy of taxation, this is not the occasion or the right time to have our views spelt out.

Second area is the mechanism to plug the loopholes, to stop wide spread tax evasion that is taking place both in direct and indirect taxes. Some of the measures proposed will be only helpful to the Government.

There are certain grey areas, for example, the recommendations of the Standing Committee are also there. So far as recommendation number 40 is concerned, it is about the payment to be made with regard to the charitable institutions and others. I agree to what has been said in the Bill that it should be in the form of account payee cheques and drafts. What will happen if it happens to be the electronic clearing system?

If we look at the current scenario, IPO scam is taking place. Specific instruction, 'Know your Customer' is given.

In a single day thousands of accounts are opened in the same address. Sometimes the names are borrowed from the slums. This can happen in a civilised country. If I go to open an account, I require a photograph, Identity Card, Pan and all that. In the face of all this, what is happening? One of the measures to control the tax evasion is ATR. It provides a revealing picture about the scenario in India. Out of 18 lakh transactions, we find that 30 per cent of them did have any PAN card. They were not told by the banks or anyone else that PAN is a must. So, whatever is proposed, at the stage of implementation we find there is laxity.

So, the administrative set up needs to be strengthened, not by computerisation alone. Computerisation, of course, is one of the dependable measures but at the same time deployment of skilled personnel and their use is also important.

In the course of the visits of our important Committee meetings, we have been told that important posts in the tax administration are lying vacant for months and years together. Naturally, when these amendments have been proposed, I support them. I think—the hon. Minister, I hope would not mind my saying this—these are half-hearted and *ad-hoc* measures. These are reactive, rather than being pro-active. The Government has to take into account not only the capital market, but also other institutions like the banks and the charitable trusts. The charitable institutions are being misused like anything. We had raised this issue very many times. This is one important area. However, now I welcome and appreciate the measures that have been proposed through this amending Bill. The hon. Minister has accepted some of the suggestions given by us. But still I would say that these are half-hearted measures. I have no time to give illustrations, otherwise I could have given him umpteen numbers instances to show how these charitable institutions are exploiting the situations. Take the case of the private hospitals. Just one room is being given for research purposes and in the name of research these hospitals are availing of all the concessions.

Sir, I believe this UPA Government is sincere in its approach and the hon. Minister himself is a very serious person and he would certainly look into the suggestions given by us. Some of our suggestions are not being paid heed to at the right time. I hope, he will listen to all our suggestions and bring forward a comprehensive legislative changes in the whole set up of income tax, customs, central excise. Some of the provisions in these Acts have

become archaic in these days in terms of philosophy, in terms of approach, in terms of administrative mechanism and in terms of technology as well.

Sir, while I extend support to this Bill, I would hope that in the coming days the Government would bring forward a full-fledged comprehensive amendment Bill including all the suggestions proposed by us as he has only proposed half-hearted measures through this amending Bill.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mahatab, would you like to make some suggestions?

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, this is a very important Bill in the sense that a lot of changes have been proposed keeping in tune with the time. This Bill deals with Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes and the provisions in this Bill proposes to carry out amendments in the Income Tax Act, 1961, Customs Act, 1962, Custom Tariff Act, 1975, Central Excise Act, 1944, Central Sales Tax, 1956. The object is to rationalise and simplify certain procedure, widen the tax base and plug the loopholes leading to leakage of revenue. These are the three main objectives and yet we know how many Members have shown interest to discuss it in this House, though the Standing Committee on Finance has dealt with these aspects in details and other things also, yet these three aspects of widening the tax base, plugging the loopholes and rationalising and simplifying the tax system would continue to be deliberated upon in future as well.

Sir, I should thank the hon. Minister that he has brought forward such a Bill. Some mind has been applied and certain steps are being proposed to be taken. This reminds me of a statement made by a famous legal luminary, namely, Shri Nani Palkiwala -- "I believe that no civil servant should be allowed to work in the Finance Ministry unless he has taken a foundational course with emphasis on truth." Whatever has been spoken today in this House, this very basic element should be adhered to because of the amount of fear that has been expressed by the hon. Member and repeated by another expert in Finance and also by Shri Rupchand Pal. They have all mentioned the same thing. If you are dealing with direct tax or indirect tax, a little element of truth is necessary by those who are manning that Ministry. Here I would like to say that these are wise words and the intention is to amend certain lacunae and tighten the tax administration. No law, least of all a tax legislation, is unchangeable specially in a civil society which has found

its moorings in a democratic system of governance. But the amendments to the Income Tax Act, 1961 said to number over 5000 since enactment have today made even the seasoned tax practitioner quail at the thought of sifting through them and all these changes in an Act which has as many as 298 sections. This needs serious attention. It can safely be said that no other piece of legislation in India has seen so many changes. Surely, laws need additions and alterations. But changes made on trial and error basis are certainly not healthy. And looking at the scale of change in the Income Tax Act, one wonders if all that is done on the plea of rationalisation and simplification has added to confusion.

The Raja Chelliah Committee on tax reforms has stated that in order to judge what kind of changes should be brought about, we must look the root causes for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in the field of tax administration and one such cause is recurrent changes in the law brought about at the budget time. It is generally conceived in secrecy and proposed and enacted without adequate public consultation and debate.

The most irritating exercise in the opinion of both the tax expert and the assessee is that of amending the rates and granting exemptions throughout the year by issuing notification. Prof. Chelliah says that the tax system and its burden must be acceptable to the citizens, that is, the potential tax payers.

A simple tax system ideally should have only a limited number of rates and exemptions or deductions and offer the least possible discretionary power to the tax officials for interpreting the law. Today the problem in direct tax is, it becomes a very subjective decision of the one who interprets sitting on the other side of the table. That is why, many cases are pending in different courts at different levels. Crores and crores of rupees are being held up because of that.

Due to paucity of time, I am not going into indirect taxes. In direct taxes, I think there is a need to have a relook. I would conclude by saying that tax reforms is too serious a matter to be dealt with by politicians and lawyers. But economists and experts in the field should have a say.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Finance has

[Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar]

introduced Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House. In this context, I would like to know whether we can implement taxation laws in our country on the pattern of other countries? Whether we can make provisions for the senior for the senior citizens and children on the pattern of other countries where the citizens pay their taxes?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to hon. Members for the broad support they have given to this Bill. As I said, I could have made several provisions of this Bill part of the Finance Bill. In fact, it would have gone unnoticed. But that would have been unfair. The Finance Bill, as it is, is a complicated piece of legislation. And to add a number of house keeping amendments to that Bill would be burdening the Bill and to really get it passed without the application of mind. So, I said in my Budget speech I will introduce a separate Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill.

We have spent months zeroing in on the amendments which are absolutely necessary in the Income Tax Act, in the Customs Act and in the Central Excise Act. That is how this Bill was prepared. I think a separate Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill gave an opportunity to the Standing Committee to deliberate at great length on this and give its Report. The Standing Committee has deliberated on this Bill and has given its 27th Report. Meetings of the Committee were held on 14th July, 6th September, 29th September, 30th September, 8th November, and 8th December, 2005. Evidence was taken, experts were called, Chartered Accountants were called, and a long Report running to almost 41 pages has been given. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that this is a half-hearted approach. This is a full-hearted approach, with full application of mind. As time goes on, surely more amendments will be required. Please remember that the assessee is one step ahead of the Government. Therefore, as and when we find that there are administrative difficulties, we will have to plug those difficulties; as and when tax laws are being changed, tax rates are being changed, some corrections would have to be made. But I believe that at least for the time being we have taken note of the major lacunae and the major bottlenecks in tax administration and we are dealing with these bottlenecks and lacunae.

Of course, there are problems with paying taxes. Nobody likes to pay taxes. But we will have to change

that culture. In Europe, for example, everybody happily pays taxes because taxes are spent wisely and taxes are spent for the purpose for which they are meant. But when people find that taxes are not spent wisely or money is being wasted, then people develop a resistance to pay taxes. So, tax compliance will improve only when Government exhibits prudence and wisdom in spending the money collected as taxes. If people see that their taxes work, then they will pay taxes better. But that is entering into philosophical issues and I will reserve all that for another occasion. Today I am very keen that the Bill is passed. I am grateful to hon. Members for their support.

On the IPO scam we can have a separate discussion. I will deal with the scam. There was failure and collusion at three levels. We are taking strong action. Nobody can say that we have not taken the strongest action. We have taken the strongest action in the IPO scam. Nobody will be spared.

So, I would request that the Bill with the amendments that I have moved and will move be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Customs Act, 1962, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Amendment of Section 35

Amendments made:

Page 3, for lines 6 and 7, *substitute—*

"5. In the Income-tax Act, in section 35, with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006,—

(i) in sub-section (1).—". (4)

Page 3, after line 24, *insert*—

'(c) after clause (iii), the following Explanation shall be inserted, namely:—

"Explanation.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to a scientific research association, university, college or other institution to which clause (ii) or clause (iii) applies, shall not be denied merely on the ground that, subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, the approval granted to the association, university, college or other institution referred to in clause (ii) or clause (iii) has been withdrawn;". (5)

Page 3, line 25, for "(c)", *substitute* "(d)". (6)

Page 3, line 27, for "(d)", *substitute* "(e)". (7)

Page 3, line 34, for "(e)", *substitute* "(f)". (8)

Page 3, after line 41, *insert*—

'(ii) in sub-section (2AA), the Explanation shall be numbered as Explanation 2 thereof and before the Explanation 2 as so numbered, the following Explanation shall be inserted, namely:—

"Explanation 1.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to a National Laboratory, University, Indian Institute of Technology or a specified person for the approved programme referred to in this sub-section, shall not be denied merely on the ground that, subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, the approval granted to,—

(a) such Laboratory, or specified person has been withdrawn; or

(b) the programme, undertaken by the National Laboratory, University, Indian Institute of Technology or specified person has been withdrawn.". (9)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 10 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 10 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 5A

Amendment made:

Page 3, after line 41, *insert*,—

Amendment of section 35AC.

5A. In section 35AC of the Income-tax Act, after sub-section (2), the following *Explanation* shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006, namely:—

"*Explanation.*—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to a public sector company or a local authority or to an association or institution for carrying out the eligible project or scheme referred to in this section applies, shall not be denied merely on the ground that subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee,—

(a) the approval granted to such association or institution has been withdrawn; or

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

- (b) the notification notifying eligible project or scheme carried out by the public sector company or local authority or association or institution has been withdrawn.”. (10)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 5A be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 5A was added to the Bill

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 11 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 11 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 5B

Amendment made:

Page 3, after line 41, insert,—

Amendment of section 35CCA.

5B. In section 35CCA of the Income-tax Act, after sub-section (2A), the following *Explanation* shall be

inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006, namely:—

Explanation.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to an association or institution for carrying out the programme of rural development referred to in subsection (j), shall not be denied merely on the ground that subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, the approval granted to such programme of rural development, or as the case may be, to the association or institution has been withdrawn.” (11)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 5B be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 5B was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8A*Amendment made:*

Page 4, after line 42, insert,—

'Amendment of section 80 GGA.

8A. In section 80GGA of the Income-tax Act, in subsection (2), with effect from the 1st day of April, 2006,—

(a) after clause (aa) the following *Explanation* shall be inserted, namely:—

"Explanation.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to a scientific research association, University, college or other institution to which clause (a) or clause (aa) applies, shall not be denied merely on the ground that, subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, the approval to such association, University, college or other institution referred to in clause (a) or clause (aa), as the case may be, has been withdrawn;"

(b) after clause (b), the following *Explanation* shall be inserted, namely:—

"Explanation.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to an association or institution for carrying the programme of rural development to which this clause applies, shall not be denied merely on the ground that subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, the approval granted to such programme, or as the case may be, to the association or institution has been withdrawn;"

(c) in clause (bb), the *Explanation* shall be numbered as *Explanation 2* thereof and before the *Explanation 2* as so numbered, the following *Explanation* shall be inserted, namely:—

"Explanation 1.—The deduction, to which the assessee is entitled in respect of any sum paid to a public sector company, or to a local authority or to an association or institution for carrying out eligible project or scheme referred to in section 35AC, shall not be denied merely on the ground that subsequent to the payment of such sum by the assessee, —

(a) the approval granted to such association or institution has been withdrawn; or

(b) the notification notifying eligible project or scheme referred to in section 35AC carried out by the

public sector company, or local authority or association or institution has been withdrawn;"

(12)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 8A be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**New Clause 8A was added to the Bill.**Clauses 9 to 36 were added to the Bill.***Clause 37**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with your leave, Clause 37, the Government wishes this clause to be negatived for the following reasons. Clause 37 was originally introduced in the Bill because as the CST Act had been amended earlier, there was a clear lacuna that the appeal had been provided against any order of a State authority which meant that even an assessment order by an assessing officer came up for an appeal to the Central Appellate Authority.

Obviously, that was not the intention. It was simply an error of the draftsman, of the mover of the Bill at that time. I am not blaming anyone. There was an oversight. So, we introduced clause 37 to take care of that and we had notified the authority under section 24(1) and not under 19, which again was trying to correct an error but the earlier error was there. Now, Sir, we have since corrected it by amending the Central Sales Tax Act as part of the Finance Bill, which was adopted a few months ago and, therefore, clause 37 is no longer required. I am requesting the House to negatively vote out clause 37.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 37 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**The Schedule was added to the Bill.***Clause 1****Short title***Amendments made:*

Page 1, line 4,

for "2005", substitute "2006" (2)

Page 1, omit lines 5 and 6 (3)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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-sixth Year", substitute "Fifty-seventh Year" (1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

SUICIDE BY FARMERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item no. 24 and 25 will be taken on some other day. Now, we will take item no. 26—Discussion under Rule 193 regarding suicide by

farmers in various parts of the country, raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman on 16th May, 2006. Yesterday, when the House was adjourned, Shri Ramji Lal Suman was on his feet. He has already taken 11 minutes. Time available with us is only two hours. Time taken is 11 minutes. Time left with us is 1 hour and 49 minutes. I would request hon. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was telling that the credit distributed to the farmers by the financial institutions is not adequate and the farmers are compelled to go for banker's loan.

Sir, the pressure of loans on the farmers is not a new phenomenon. There were movements on the issue of loan-waiving even in the Pre-Independence era. Mama Shri Baleshwar Dayalji, an icon of the Socialist Movement whose birth-centenary falls in this very year, had a similar movement in Jhabua at that time. When the British tried to find out the real reason behind the mutiny of 1857 and went for a probe into this, they came to know that the anger coming out of forced recovery of revenue from the poor farmers was the basic reason behind that rebellion.

16.11 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKIRSHNAN in the Chair]

and this was one of the reasons for the nationalization of banks at that time which proclaimed for benefits to the farmers. The British adopted a basic principle that the amount of interest on a premium sum would not exceed the total amount borrowed, viz. the maximum sum of interest would not exceed the total amount of premium sum. Earlier, the farmers were not subjected to pay any more than this in this regard but now they pay multiplied interest on the actual sum taken from the banks as loan. The principle that the maximum amount of interest would not exceed the actual loan-sum, is not followed today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has mentioned in his Budget-speech about 7% interest-rate, but the farmer is subjected to repay 13-18% compound-interest. The biggest problem before him is the repayment of loan taken from some financial institution. He is so burdened that he finds himself unable to do so.

Sir, the farmer is left with only two options in this jeopardy: suicide or rebellion and movement. One can register one's protest in a democratic system, this is one's right. Then, the farmer has no other option except to rebel, and when he comes to that he faces wrath of the system. He is fired at by the police. If we glance over this situation we find that not less than 200 farmers have been killed within last two years. I am not blaming any particular government for this, yet bullets were fired at the farmers whenever they came out in protest.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Digvijay Singh, the brother of our hon. colleague Shri Laxman Singh was heading the government in Madhya Pradesh when the clash between farmers and police broke out in Betul district of the State on 12 January, 1998. Dr. Sunilam an MLA in the State Assembly of M.P., was leading this protest of the farmers when lathis and bullets were charged on them and 24 farmers lost their lives in that incident. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I had also gone there.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: The firing at Shri Ganganagar in Rajasthan and in Orissa had taken perhaps under your tenure. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I mean to say that the farmers' movement is forcibly oppressed all over the country, but just look at the conditions they have to face. The cost of agro-production has doubled during the last two years. Prices of seed, fertilizer and irrigation have escalated further. And what is the result of our agreement with the W.T.O.? This agreement has reduced the price of soyabean from Rs. 1800 per quintal to Rs. 100 per quintal and also price of cotton from Rs. 2800 per quintal to only Rs. 1000 per quintal. In southern part of the country, the prices of coconut and coffee have also suffered due to this. We would have asked the W.T.O. to end the subsidy costing around one billion dollars enjoyed by their countrymen under their net. The gravest flaw herein is that our farmers are forced to compete with them. My point is that the competition should take place among the equals. Our poor farmers were deprived of such facilities cannot compete with those resource-rich people. Today, the American and European companies are selling their products here, like; 'Kargil' and Van Canto' and our producers do not get proper amenities to compete with them. This situation will eventually lead to crisis. Moreover, we could not succeed

in the W.T.O. meet. We should at least have taken into our custody the right of imposing quantity-sanctions; it would enable us to limit the sale of foreign agro-produce by MNCs in India. Such MNCs would rather have been blacklisted in our country.

Recently, the US President George Bush visited India and we did some agreements regarding agricultural research and development with United States. An agreement with USA is an entirely distinct question, but I would like to say that the research in the name of agriculture in our country should come out of laboratories and reach the ordinary farmers to benefit them. If such research does not reach a farmer living in a remote village or rural area, it stands null and void. We are in the 21st century and talk of research and development in the agro-sector. We want to modernize our agriculture, but just look at the prevailing scene of the day. In Bihar, the farmer himself pulls the cart as he has no bulls. One other is commanding him while he replaces the bullock. I think this is a matter of great shame to all of us. All our promises of progress and prosperity reduce to nothing if this situation prevails. We have taken one more destructive step, the permission to use BT-cotton seed was given with the logic that it would not require any pesticides. It was also said that this type of cotton would increase productivity and quality of the produce. The farmers of A.P., Malwa region of M.P., Karnataka and Maharashtra sow the BT-cotton seed and they faced the catastrophe. They got no yield and all tall claims were found to be plain lies. The farmers were misguided and they fell prey to the naughty MNCs. Yet, what could be done to relieve those farmers? The Government of Andhra Pradesh filed a case in the court against M/s Mecanto Company claiming for the loss incurred to the farmers. The court ordered the said company to compensate for the losses but the farmers have not received a simple penny from the company till date. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I am happy to note that the Agriculture Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra. I think that the reason behind inviting only these four Chief Ministers was a report published in newspapers which mentioned that most cases of farmers committing suicides were taking place there only. I thank him for initiating a nice work wherein he had also said that package would be given to those districts where farmers have committed suicides. But Sharadji, the condition of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa state is also pitiable apart from the above states and they are poor states. I therefore, request to the agriculture minister

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

through you Mr. Chairman Sir that you kindly call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the state while discussing the problems of the farmers and discussion regarding providing package and should not be confined to any district or any state alone but for the entire country so that condition of farmers could be improved as this issue is not to be confined within the boundaries of any state or district. Farmers of the entire country are expressing their sentiment and everywhere the situation is the same.

I would like to make another submission. Today we all talk about the importing of wheat. I would like to thank the farmers of India who by their sheer efforts endeavoured to make the country self reliant in the field of foodgrains. We should appreciate this. The Government had decided initially to import 5 m lakh tonnes of wheat which has now been increased upto 50 lakh tonnes. The price of Rs. 798 per quintal fixed for it would come to Rs. 900 per quintal at its delivery at the ports and the Finance Minister has admitted that as per his own calculations its price would come to Rs. 970 per quintal. We are paying Rs. 900 to 7000 per quintal for the imported wheat whereas we are paying Rs. 650 per quintal to our farmers. The payment of Rs. 50 as bonus announced later on would continue till June. The agencies which procure wheat are receiving less quantity of it due to the psychological effect created in the minds of the farmers that the Government are paying Rs. 900 per quintal for the imported wheat while they are being paid Rs. 650 per quintal. The private people and multinational companies are making use of the situation and are procuring wheat at the declared rate. What would be the result then. It would result in creating false shortage of wheat in the country. The Government has accepted that it had more than 116 lakh tonnes of wheat in central pool of wheat stock. The rabi crop was due after six months and was about to hit the market. I would certainly like to know the total requirement of wheat and whether the wheat in stock was adequate or not. The Government should explain the situation which necessitated the import of wheat. Shri Sharad Pawar should take care to answer this while making his reply. The first lot of wheat imported from Australia by State Trading Corporation had contained more than 50 per cent of pesticides and 14 per cent of weeds respectively as was found in the preliminary text. The report has been received by the Government, but the investigation agencies termed this report as false. I would like to know that since the early report was ordered

through you than why it was changed. We would not have bought the quantity of wheat in our country which is being imported now. The first lot which has arrived contained pesticides and weeds above permissible limits. We made the procedure of inviting tender easier afterwards. It is being said that it has been done at the behest of America.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am having the Hindu dated 8 March, 2006 with me. It is published that

[English]

"US to hold talks on norms for wheat imports go get a clear picture on India's requirements."

[Translation]

What are we doing after all? Where are we moving and what is our position? I think that the position of India as a whole is not good. You are purchasing sub standard wheat by ignoring the labour, efforts of the farmers of the country. I think that nothing can be more shameful than this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram ji had given a long speech regarding water conservation during his budget speech made in September. It seemed that the Government is really serious about the matter, but it has made little progress till now. It has been confined mainly in the files and nothing has been done regarding water conservation. In India 55 per cent of the water is wasted. If we look at the situation of other countries of world we find that we are having the largest numbers of rivers, but we are not using water properly. Today the per capita water conservation in our country is 207 cubic meter per capita. It is 6103, 4733, 3145, 1964, 1739, 1245 and 1111 cubic meter in Russia, Australia, Brazil, America, Turkey, Mexico and China respectively. I mean to say that the Government in no way serious about water conservation. It has become nobody's concern. We have not included it in the priorities set by us for the progress of our country. We may say that the land of the country cannot be left at the mercy of monsoon and we will have to make proper arrangements of irrigation in this regard. I hold the government guilty of not being serious in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, irrigation projects were started in our country at the time of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru during the first five year plan. These irrigation projects have not

been completed till date. It is a matter of serious concern. The Minister of Water Resources to the Government of India had himself admitted in the House a day before yesterday that 139 centrally assisted irrigation projects are yet to be completed till date. Everyday you make misleading statements that you are launching new projects. You are least bothered to know whether the projects started by you before ten or twenty years have been completed or not. The condition of farmers would remain the same till you give priority to irrigation and complete old projects. I would also like to submit that we will have to take up irrigation work on priority to save the farmers.

I would like to submit before Sharadji that the National Farmers Commission constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Swaminathan has submitted three reports to the Government. I would like to know that what is the necessity of constituting a Commission if its recommendations are not accepted. Mr. Minister Sir, you should kindly let us know the extent of the recommendations of the Farmers Commission accepted which has been received by the government, otherwise there would be no meaning of the Commission. you kindly deal with it in detail while making your reply.

Before I conclude I would like to know from the hon. Minister to inform us in detail regarding the situation which necessitated wheat import. I believe that there is only one solution to the problems of the country and that is to have a budget based on agriculture. Thirdly, time has come when agriculture should be given a status of an industry. Loans taken by the farmers should be waived off and opportunities to use latest technique be provided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we attained independence, we adopted industrial model. It resulted in flow of money and migration of people from villages to towns. Therefore, it is my submission through you that we have already had discussions regarding suicides committed by farmers in the House but it should not be reduced to a mere formality. Therefore, I would like to say that in view of the helplessness and anguish of the farmers throughout the country we should take some meaningful and concrete efforts so that farmers are not compelled to commit suicides and are also protected from falling to the ballets of police.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you have made a very lengthy speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Sir, like every year, a discussion is being held today in the House regarding the problems of the farmers, especially the suicides being committed by the farmers. The incidents of suicides being committing by the farmers is not a novel phenomenon. They have been committing suicides for the past many years continuously and every year the number of such incidents is keeps on increasing. The farmers are committing suicides in every state and in all the parts of the country. It is a very serious issue and it should be taken seriously notwithstanding the fact which party is in power. However, this problem is not being addressed with the seriousness it deserves. The officers entrusted with formulating the policy of the agriculture sector of the country, who decide the fate of farmers, and the media as well are not addressing the problem with the seriousness with which it should have been done. This problem is aggravating. Whether it is Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh, the farmers in every state are committing suicide. Everyone of us is aware of its root cause. The hon'ble Members coming from almost every part of the country, who are present in the House, most of them hailing from rural India are aware of the problems being faced by the farmers and this issue is also discussed with great seriousness in every session of the House. However, Shri Suman ji has rightly said that whatever is discussed here remains confined to the papers only and is never seriously pondered over. There are several reasons behind suicides being committed by the farmers. However, the prominent among them is the fat rate of interest on the loans taken by the farmers for farming purposes. He invests the entire amount of loan in farming activity; however, he does not get commensurate output and desired profit in it, rather he suffers loss.

Sir, when a person, an industry or a farmer suffers loss continuously and gets burdened by the debt and the multiplying interest thereon, it is quite natural that he will fall victim to a mental state where he will not have any other option but to commit suicide. So the incidents of suicides are on increase, however there seems to be no solution in sight to this problem. Farmers take loans mostly from cooperative banks or cooperative sector or private persons. Their rate of interest remains very high. In the present situation, as per the survey of NSSO, 48.6 percent farmers of the country are burdened with debt and unable

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

to come out of the debt trap. The hon'ble Members can understand that gradually interest will increase and their condition will further worsen. Today each farmer is burdened with an average debt of Rs. 12,585. The situation in some of the states is more grim Punjab is considered the most prosperous state of the country; however, the average farmer of the state is burdened with a debt of Rs. 41,576. Similarly, the farmer of Haryana is burdened with a debt of Rs. 25007 that of Andhra Pradesh with Rs. 23965 and of Tamil Nadu with Rs. 23963. Thus, different states have different figures and the condition in some of the states is more pathetic. The figures that I have presented are about prosperous states. From these figures one can easily guess about the pathetic state of affairs.

Hon'ble Ramji Lal Suman ji has given some examples which are very suggestive. I would like to apprise the House about a news item published in a newspaper in which it has been said that the debt of farmers keeps on increasing at the compound rate of interest as they are not able to repay it and sometimes the situation deteriorates to the extent that they are sent to jail for not repaying debt and there they have to bear the stamp fees and other expenses. A farmer had taken a loan of Rs. 97 thousand which he could not repay as his crops were ruined. Gradually that amount of loan increased to Rs. 19 lakh. The bank lodged a case against the farmer and a recovery of Rs. 19 lakh was made from him. There are many such cases where farmers have fallen prey to such situation after taking loans. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is well aware of this situation since he himself belongs to a farmer's family. Today he has got an opportunity to solve the problem of the farmers.

I would like to suggest that the rate of interest on agricultural loans advanced to farmers should be reduced. When hon'ble Atal ji took over the reigns of the Government the prevalent rate of interest charged to farmers was 18-19 percent which was reduced to 9 percent by Atal ji's Government. This rate should be further reduced to 5-6 percent. The industries are getting loan at the rate of 4-5 percent. The agriculture should also be declared as an industry and loan should be provided to it at the same rate of interest. Moreover compound interest should not be charged from the farmers. Hon'ble Suman ji had submitted and I also support his views that more than double of the amount of actual loan taken by the farmer should not be recovered from him. A Bill should be introduced in the House in this regard. Again, I would

also like to suggest that the houses of the farmers should not be attached. If this issue is solved, 50 percent problems of the farmers will be solved.

The problem of irrigation is a serious problem for the farmers. Cultivation cannot be done without water. Even after 60 years of our independence the problem of irrigation in our country has not yet been solved. The geographical contours of different parts of our country are such that half of our country remains affected by drought while the rest half remains affected by floods. The Government of hon'ble Atal ji had started a project to link all the rivers however, the present Government has put it on the back burner. Neither can man survive without water nor can there be any cultivation in its absence. There are inter-state water disputes involving many riparian states. There is the dispute of Cauvery River and SYL canal. The water of rivers flowing through Punjab is going into Pakistan but the state is not ready to share it with Haryana. It should not be made a political issue; these problems should be solved by way of treating them as economic issues. It is the policy of the Government to provide more loans in order to repay the previous loan. It is not the solution to the problem to provide more loans to repay the existing loan. The solution of this problem is to improve the economic condition of the farmers. Unless the economic condition of the farmers is improved, this problem is not going to be solved.

Let us look into the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has made a provision of Rs. one lakh forty thousand crore for next ten years for agriculture and food processing industry. That means Rs. one lakh forty thousand crore will be invested in food industry. The farmers are committing suicides every day and such a big amount is being given to the industry. In a way such a big amount is being given to agriculture industry in the form of subsidy, however the farmers are not directly getting this money. In this situation when we demand from the Planning Commission that financial assistance should be provided for solving the problems of farmers, the Planning Commission outrightly declines to do so by saying that the exchequer has no money to spare so they cannot give money. There is fiscal deficit when it comes to making financial provisions for farmers but there is no such thing when it comes to industries. A policy of double standard is being followed. Anti-farmer policy is being followed. This problem should be solved.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party's time is over.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, Shri Suman ji got 30 to 45 minutes to speak while only ten minutes have been given to my party.

Sir, I would like to raise a point about electricity. Today electricity has become an inseparable part of the farmer's life. Cultivation cannot be done without power and all know about the condition of power supply in the country. The farmers are not getting power supply for more than two-three hours and during that period too the voltage remains low. The motor of tube well and other electrical implements get burnt due to low voltage. The farmers suffer more losses on account of this. So I would like to request that the farmers should get at least 14-15 hours power supply daily and the Government should make such arrangements in the entire country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, there are six hon. Members from your party. I am telling you that there must be an end to the matter. Your party has 30 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, I will speak only for two three minutes more. I would like to express my views in brief. The most difficult problem that the farmers are facing is the problem of market. The Government fix the minimum support price. Today farmers are in need of remunerative price. The minimum support price is of no help. It is fixed only for a few crops. The Government this time have made fun of the farmers. The Government have increased the price of wheat by ten rupees per quintal. The Government headed by Shri Atalji had increased it by Rs. 50, Rs. 80 per quintal.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): As a sum of Rs. 50/- towards bonus has been given.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: I will come to that also. By increasing the rate by 10 rupees, the Government have made fun of the farmers, while the farmers have to shell out more money for buying Diesel, seeds, fertilizers etc as its prices are continuously on the rise and the farmers are not getting remunerative prices.

This time the price of wheat per quintal has been fixed as Rs.650. The farmers have started supplying wheat to the market, but the Government failed to purchase it. Around 80% farmers sold wheat to the traders and to big companies at the rate of extra 10 rupees than the normal price, that's why wheat was not available in the Government pool. When it came to the notice of the Government that the wheat has been purchased by the private traders, then the Government declared Rs. 50 as bonus. Who were beneficiaries of this move? Wheat is no more with the farmers and the traders will take advantage of this bonus. This is the anti-farmer policy of the Government. These happenings are the outcome of this anti-farmer policy. We had to import five lakh ton wheat, out of which one lakh ton wheat was imported from Australia. Shri Suman was right in saying that one lakh ton wheat was imported, but even for the animals it was not fit for consumption and the price of the said wheat was Rs. 950 per quintal, but this price was not considered to be reasonable for offering to our farmers. The farmers of the foreign countries get prices of their own choices. Taxes were done away with for the wheat coming from foreign countries and they were informed that licenses would also be provided to them. India has been turned into a wholesale market for wheat. This is the outcome of the wrong policies adopted by the Government. According to the survey, the total consumption of wheat in the country is 7 crore 30 lakh tons and the Government have set 7 crore 24 lakh ton as the target for consumption. There was a deficiency of 6 lakh tons 30 lakh more tons of wheat is being procured from foreign countries. It is a conspiracy to finish off the farmers. Foreign companies have a part in this who are engaged in this plundering. There is need to be careful in this regard. The crop of mustard seeds has come to the market. I have come to know from the newspapers that there is an uproar about it in the entire country. Farmers are picketing, demonstrating and are blocking the roads by creating jams. Nobody is there to purchase their mustard-seeds crop. The Government agency NAFED had declared that the entire crops of mustard-seeds of the farmer would be purchased within 31st May but date 14 has now passed.
...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. There are others to speak on this issue. Furthermore, there are six Members from you own party to speak on this issue.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, I will not take more than two-three minutes to conclude.

[Translation]

This is a burning issue. On 14, NAFED has stopped purchasing mustard seed crops. The process of procuring agriculture product from the farmers has been made even complex. Now the process involves issuing coupons to the Patwaries and the farmers will sell their produce through exchange of coupons. Coupons worth one lakh 36 thousand metric ton were issued to the farmers free. Mustard seeds crops worth 63 thousand metric ton were purchased. What will happen to the remaining quantity of mustard-seeds crops? What will happen to the Farmers? There was commotion all over the country. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. He should give us reply in this regard. What will happen to the remaining mustard-crops and where can the farmers take it to? Out of compulsion they are selling it to the middlemen and in order to get rid of it they are selling it at Rs. 2000 per quintal less than the normal rate. The farmers are being exploited, we should focus our attention towards this.

Livestock forms the second main source of income for the farmers but the Government has been paying little attention towards it. I would like to support this statement through reproducing relevant data. As per the census of 1952 there were 452 cattle for every thousand people in the country which has now come down to 188 cattle for every 1000 people in the year 2001. This source of income for the farmers has also dried up. All sources of his income are on the wane. Nobody is seriously concerned about this matter.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. You are taking the time of other Members in your party also.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: As far as the matter of the farmers committing suicides is concerned, every year 30 thousand farmers are committing suicides. When we are discussing such an important matter, a little more time may be granted to us.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot help you.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Nobody is serious regarding this matter. So long as no arrangement for minimum income for the farmers is evolved and farmers are not given remunerative prices for their produce besides ensuring adequate supply of inputs like power supply water for irrigation, good quality seeds and fertilizers for them alongwith the implementation of the crops insurance scheme, the lot of the farmers is not going to change. Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar is present there. He is a farmer himself. He should pay serious attention towards it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. You have already taken 17 minutes. Only 30 minutes are allotted for your party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do? There are others to speak on this issue. There are six other Members from your own party to speak, and they would not get time to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you are a very kind person. Thank you very much for allowing him to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My kindness will not help your party.

Next speaker is Shri Adhir Chowdhury. Please limit your speech within the time limit. Otherwise, others will lose the chance to speak, and you would be denying others an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: He should resign from Cricket Control Board and take care of agriculture. Then only the lot of farmer will improve.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Barrhampore, West Bengal): All right, Sir. I must appreciate Shri Ramji Lal Suman and his colleague, who have raised this issue with regard to the distressing plight of the farmers in India.

We know that the farmers are the founders of our civilisation and prosperity, and throughout the ages Indian culture has been flourishing with the grace of our agriculturists. Indian people always worship land as their own mother.

It is true that the specter of suicide committed by the farmers in India has been haunting us since 1987. It is not a new phenomenon arising soon after the assumption of power by the UPA Government. Our Opposition colleagues, I think, are suffering from amnesia. They were also running the affairs of our country for six years. They must know that during the regime of NDA Government, a number of suicides had taken place in India.

Sir, the UPA Government is very much sensitive to the distress condition of the farmers. I would like to recall that soon after the Swearing-in-Ceremony, our Prime Minister had visited Andhra Pradesh to commiserate himself with the bereaved families, who have lost their earning members because the farmers had committed suicides. After visit, a new deal was announced by our Prime Minister.

Since Independence, the national leaders of our country have been initiating various measures to boost our agriculture so as to protect the interests of the farming community in India. Since the First Five-Year Plan, massive public investment has been made to tap the irrigation potential in our country. Landlordism was abolished by the Congress Government, protection to tenants was given by the Congress Government, the Green Revolution was initiated by the Congress Government, and the country which was earlier regarded as a food-deficit country, where hand to mouth was our existence, we have become a food-surplus country and self-sufficient in agriculture.

Therefore, since the day of Independence, the Congress Government has been pursuing such policies for protecting our farmers because we believe that if agriculture is to be regarded as the formidable fulcrum of our economy, then the chief architects of that formidable fulcrum are our beloved farmers.

Sir, the Prime Minister of India has recently met the experts from various fields, especially to devise ways and means for developing our agriculture sector. In his discussions, he has asserted that we have to increase the agricultural productivity—the productivity of land, labour,

seed, plants and other factors of production. We have to develop affordable and appropriate technologies for energy and water. We have to promote labour-intensive, yet efficient and relevant technologies in both farm and non-farm sectors.

Sir, this year has been dedicated as an "Agriculture Renewal Year". This Government is going to usher in a second Green Revolution by harnessing all our skills and expertise.

Special efforts have been made in regard to: soil health enhancement through concurrent attention to Physics, Chemistry and Microbiology of soils; water harvesting, water conservation, sustainable and equitable use of water; access to affordable credit, crop and life insurance reforms; development and dissemination of appropriate technologies; improvement of opportunities and infrastructure; and regulation of marketing of produce.

It is true that distress of our farming community is a matter of serious concern. It has been found that excessive burden of debt and crop failure are the reasons which force our farmers to commit suicides. Flow of credit alone cannot be treated as a panacea for all economic ills. It is a part of the problem. There is no doubt that it is a part of the problem. By doubling or trebling the credit flow to farmers alone cannot solve this chronic problem. The Government should initiate measures to ensure that farmers derive some assured income so as to enable them to repay their loans. I say this because it is the inability of the farming community to repay loans that is triggering these suicides.

The Congress Government had earlier initiated the Green Revolution. At that time, it was alleged that the Green Revolution was confined to only three-four States which were endowed with natural resources. But the second Green Revolution is going to take care of dry and marginal farmlands of our country.

All advanced agricultural economies are knowledge-based economies. Therefore, we must broaden the knowledge base of our farmers to enable them to make best use of new technologies. Our farmers' needs are multifaceted. These are not limited to technology alone. They need information about agricultural methods, farming practices, policy initiatives, best practices of other farmers and market intelligence. Timely availability of information is a critical component in the development of our agriculture. Over decades, extension services have been

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

neglected. Therefore, this Government is making serious efforts to gear up the extension services and to meet these emerging demands of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party has got only 24 minutes and you have taken eleven minutes so far. There are three more speakers. You are taking the time of others now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, this a very serious issue.

This Government has already begun the process of ushering in a new era for our farming community by revamping and rejuvenating the sector.

17.00 hrs.

If we see the Budget of this year, you would find there that a fresh infusion of credit is going to reach those depressed farmers who need it for redeeming their distress.

Farm credit has been increased to Rs. 125,309 crore in 2004-05. It is expected to cross the target of Rs. 141,500 crore for 2005-06. It is expected to increase to Rs. 175,000 crore in 2006-07 with an addition of 50 lakh farmers. Banks have been asked to open a separate window for self-help groups or joint liability groups of tenant farmers. A one-time relief is to be granted to farmers who have availed crop loan from scheduled commercial banks. RRBs and PACS for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06. An amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's interest liability on the principal amount up to Rs. 100,000 is to be credited to his or her bank account before March 31, 2006 and a sum of Rs. 1, 700 crore is provided for this purpose.

This Government has already announced a comprehensive credit policy package on June 18, 2004. The policy, *inter alia*, provides for Special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers with discretion to the banks for partially writing off the debts of the farmers.

As far as micro finance is concerned, 801,000 self-help groups have been credit-linked in two years with a credit of Rs. 4,863 crore disbursed to these self-help groups. NABARD is to open a line of credit for financing farm production and investment activities through self-help groups. A Committee is to be appointed on Financial

Inclusion. That means, this Government is addressing the distressed conditions of the farmers. We did not believe in any causal approach. Therefore, the Government is going to announce a rehabilitation package. Our hon. Agriculture Minister has held wide-ranging discussion with those affected States to provide rehabilitation package. Already 30 to 35 districts have been identified. But I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister not to confine it to those States because I am also hailing from a State called West Bengal, which is boasting of land reforms. However, it has been failed to earn desired result. Already incidences of suicides have taken place in West Bengal also. Hence, I would request the Government to include those very distressed districts, namely, Midnapur, Purulia and Bankura for extending rehabilitation package.

I would also request the Government to initiate fresh cooperative movement because it is true that in the post-WTO scenario, we have to be competitive if we have to survive in this market. We have to adopt the internal economy and the external stipulations. Therefore, we have to balance the interests of the farming community, agriculture and other imponderables. Therefore, I think that if we try to revive our cooperative movement, it would help the poor people of our country a lot. I would like to recall a sentence of Gandhiji – drops of water make the ocean. The reason being that there is complete co-operation and cohesion. Sir, we are living in the age of corporatisation of agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude for the sake of others. There are other Members also to speak from your party. Why do you not realise their position? You are conceding their time.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, the problems of the farmers are manifold. They are committing suicide because of taking money at high interest rates from private money lenders; soaring input cost, low output prices, and scarcity of funds for the farming expenditure.

Therefore, Sir, a legislation should be made to regulate the private money lenders. All Members of this House have expressed their concern that money lenders in the villages are playing havoc with the lives of the farming community.

Sir, the mitigation scheme must be revamped to cover more farmers under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have already taken 18 minutes, and there are still three speakers from your party. Your party is having a total of only 32 minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am on my last point.

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to set up Price Stabilisation Fund to cushion the adverse impact of the agrarian crisis. Already, Swaminathanji has presented his 4th Report to the Government where a comprehensive National Commission of Farmer has been proposed to boost agriculture. It is proposed to provide necessary advisory, technical, farm credit and marketing services to the farming community.

Sir, now, the population is increasing to the tune of 1.84 per cent. But the annual output of agriculture is declining. The average farm size is also declining, which is putting further pressure on the unit of land in the agriculture sector. Therefore, for supplementary income generation, I would request the hon. Minister to provide more succour in the animal husbandry sector, livestock sector and fishery sector. It is because India is such a country which initiated the Green Revolution in horticulture production. Therefore, I would request the Government to continue its initiation for the development of these sectors. It is because the more we develop our agriculture sector, the more it will help our farming community to survive in a peaceful and healthy manner.

Sir, with these word, I am concluding my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, do you realise the position? You have taken 20 minutes; and there is a balance of only 12 minutes for the remaining three speakers from your party.

Now, Shri Hannan Mollah. You have got 10 minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mollahji, yours is not a *kisan* party; yours is a labour party. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): We are pro-kisan. We are the largest kisan party. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let him speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has initiated this discussion about the farmers committing suicides in various parts of our country. This is a very important issue which has been the theme of discussions for many a years. During the speech of Shri Sangwan ji, he was showering praises on Shri Vajpayee ji even though decline in fortune of the farmers started during his tenure. However, the farmers have been committing suicides for the last 97 years but this trend has been on an upward swing since 1997-98. Till date about 25030 thousand farmers have committed suicides in this country. Out of which Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala are the main affected states but later on Punjab and Uttar Pradesh were added to this list. The Government should have conducted a survey to know about the place wise number of farmers committing suicide. Even though the Government have data of animals dying, it tend to forget the value of human life. Thousands have lost their lives, but the Government pretends nothing has happened. The way in which farmers are committing suicides is a matter of concern for our country. The maximum number of suicides were reported from Andhra Pradesh where more than 5000 farmers have committed suicides, followed by Kamataka with 5000 farmers, Maharashtra more than 3000, Kerela with 500 and Punjab with more than 100 farmers committing suicides. The farmers committing suicides included cotton growing farmers, spices producing farmers, coffee, cocoa or cashew nut producing farmers and in Punjab there were rice and wheat producing farmers. How was such a situation created? This is the outcome of our bad policies. Such a situation has developed due to our faulty policies in Rural development and Agriculture sector. In the name of globalisation, the doors of the entire world were opened to India and by accepting the norms of the WTO, thousands of articles produced in the country by our farmers have started flooding India from outside, from there onwards our farmers have started to suffer greater loses. In order to overcome this, we should reform our policies and only by formulating a sound programme, we can put a stop on the suicides by farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the day the policy of liberalisation has been initiated, the condition of the farmers has deteriorated day-by-day. On the one hand there is a decrease in the Governmental investment in agriculture for the farmers and on the other the farmers have to invest more and more money on his own for his produce. Today multinational companies have come to

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

the fore in the name of modern agriculture. Earlier farmers used to produce the crops from their own seeds, they used fertilizers and the water of the country, but from the day when they have been made to use the foreign seeds, his cost of agriculture input has grown more. The foreign seeds, owing to the said variety of crop needing higher level of fertilizers, pesticides and more water besides growing his dependence on the machines. Owing to which income of the multinational companies are increasing, their looting is on the rise, on the other hand the farmers are being squeezed to the hilt and are forced to commit suicides. The Government should make maximum investment in agricultural sector, but the Government is back tracking on this.

Today subsidy on agriculture in our country is being reduced while in Europe, farmers are given 37% subsidy, in America this subsidy is 40%, in Japan 72% subsidy is being given while in India the subsidy for the farmers is only three percent. Despite this we exhort our farmers to compete with the farmers of the rest of the world. How can a disabled person compete with such powerful plunderers? It is not possible to save the farmers by merely delivering speeches, for accomplishing this, change in policy is needed.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Minister, please do the needful in this regard.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: We are hopeful that the hon. Minister would certainly take some steps in this regard. He is a big farmer, a powerful farmer and he has got vast experience in this field.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier the farmers used to cultivate more in foodgrain crops but the regime of BJP, was accompanied by less than proportionate increase in foodgrains production compared to increase in the proportionate increase in foodgrains production compared to increase in the population. This has posed a challenge for the food security of our country. Our UPA Government have come into power on the basis of common minimum programme and we have also made a promise to better the condition of the farmers but in order to achieve this we would have to expedite the progress of our programmes.

Today the types of seeds which are available to farmers from foreign countries, like the talks of BT cotton, are causing losses. We have imposed new technology on the farmers by deviating from our traditional ways, as a

result today our farmers are facing its negative outcome. Along with this our investment also is diminishing day by day. In 50's there used to be 17% investment in agricultural sector but later on in 90's it got reduced to 7 percent make progress if the Government's investment in agricultural sector on which 70-75 percentage of our farmers are dependent, is decreasing regularly? The investment in rural development which was 14.5% in 85-90 has now come down to 5.9%. If investment in agricultural sector and rural development will decrease regularly, then how can we better the condition of the villages? This is also policy matter. That is why the Minister of Agriculture should pay attention towards this. On the other hand, the rate of interest loans given to the farmers, is increasing very fast. We have been hearing right from the beginning that a farmer is born with the burden of loan, he lives his whole life with it and in the end he dies with it, but today his condition has become more miserable. It has been said in the last sample survey that out of the 9 crore families in India, 48.6 percent are totally in debt and among these 47 percent are farmers who have to take loan from private parties. If farmers take loan at 18 to 36 percent interest rate, then it would be difficult for them to progress ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue is not only related to suicides by farmers, but is connected to the agriculture policy also. Today during this discussion, all the aspects related to agriculture should be taken up. For the first time, a discussion regarding farmers is going on during this Session. This discussion is in the interest of 80 percent population of our country, so it should be thorough. You have to increase time for this discussion and the Government will have to take concrete steps in this regard ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier, the growth rate of agriculture was 3.7 percent which decreased to 2.06 percent and now it has decreased even further. In the 80's agriculture production was 3.72 percent which has now decreased to 1.1 percent. In this way, our agricultural production has fallen short of the requirement of the growing population. Our per capita food consumption, was 175 kg in 1990 and now it has reduced to 153 kg. In such circumstances, it would be difficult for our farmers to progress. This will endanger our food security and our country will have to face difficulty.

What are we doing to save our farmers? Every year farmers have to incur heavy losses due to storm, hailstorm, flood and drought. It is happening atleast once in three years but till now there is no insurance cover for more than 10 percent. In such circumstances the

Government should think as to how the farmer will survive. Private people are getting loan from banks regularly. As regards our CD ratio earlier, 69 percent investment was made of the total revenue collection in villages this has also reduced today. The revenue collected in village is reaching the lands of industrialists in cities as loan due to which there is no money for giving loans to farmers, such a situation is prevailing today. I would request the Minister to pay attention towards these negative situation and to improve this situation. After spending so much money when the farmer reaches the market he does not get reasonable price for his produce and the minimum support price for his product is also declared late and he gets less than his production cost.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very horrible situation. We know that last year 36 lakh tonne mustard was produced in Rajasthan and this year its production is 43 lakh tonne. The Central Government has given funds to NAFED for purchasing mustard. NAFED has stopped purchasing mustard after purchase of 12 lakh tonnes of it. The State Government has no role in the purchase of mustard. The farmers, who have cultivated onion and mustard, are not getting good prices and as they are unable to repay their loan they are forced to commit suicide.

The Government should concentrate on providing remunerative prices to farmers for their produce and to declare MSP in time.

Sir, we feel that for the last few days procurement policy of the Government has also become faulty as a result procurement of farmers produce is not taking place properly. Godowns of FCI have no space. The number of purchase centers of FCI has decreased. The amount provided to FCI for purchase of foodgrains has also reduced. As a result the intervention of FCI has lessened in purchase of foodgrains from farmers. The Government is unable to procure foodgrains efficiently through FCI. The Government is purchasing wheat from abroad to fill FCI godowns. Due to this everybody is condemning the government. Earlier BJP Government was selling our wheat at cheaper rates, its selling price was half of its cost. Foreign countries purchased our wheat at half the rate for feeding their pigs and today our Government is purchasing wheat from Australia which is not good for human consumption.

Sir, if today our Government helps our farmers and they cultivate wheat with that help and if we procure it, it will be cheaper. It will improve the condition of our

farmers. But instead of benefiting our farmers, it has started purchasing wheat from Australia which has forced our farmers to commit suicide.

Sir, except West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and some other states, land reforms in the remaining states is almost nil. There influential persons are acquiring land and lakhs of marginal and small farmers are becoming landless every year. They are being deprived of cultivation. In the name of land reforms, they are taking land from small farmers and giving it to multinationals. Our policy is going towards opposite direction. As a result, now we will become unable to save agriculture in our country.

Sir, the UPA Government should fulfil its promises of land reforms made in its common minimum programme. Another thing which I want to state is that the population of agricultural labour is increasing in our country but he is getting neither work nor wage and social security. The UPA Government has formulated an Employment Guarantee Scheme for 100 days but it has been implemented in 200 districts only. Official work is going on in remaining districts. As a result, agricultural labourers are compelled to migrate. Labourers have to shift from one State to another State. Agricultural labour used to get work for 183 days in 1983, 100 days in 1990 and for 70 days in the year 2000. In this way agricultural labourers are getting very little work due to which their condition is becoming bad to worse.

Sir, the UPA Government has promised to enact a law for giving work to agricultural labourers and improving the condition of farmers. I demand that the Government should enact a law in this regard quickly.

In the end, I want to state that it is the moral responsibility of the UPA Government to improve the conditions of farmers so that they may stop committing suicide. For this recommendation of Swaminathan Commission should be implemented immediately. Swaminathan Commission has given three report to this Government during the last two years but it has not implemented them till now. The Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of a Minister to study these recommendations and this Committee has constituted six more working groups some time back to study these recommendations thoroughly. I am afraid the working group may further constitute eight sub-groups. If such things continue then recommendations of Swaminathan Commission will become useless. I would submit to the Government that we cannot save our farmers through this bureaucratic method. Our farmers are dying due to this bureaucratic approach.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

Sir, last year, Swaminathan Commission had recommended to give Rs. 11500 crore and more to farmers in the budget so that the problems of the farmers could be solved but that was not given to them. Similarly, the Commission had recommended to give loan at 4 percent interest rate but it was given at 7 percent. If the Government continue working in this manner, then the condition of farmers could not be improved. I demand that the Government should provide loan to farmers at 4 percent interest rate and insurance cover to their crop should be given up every district and recommendation of Swaminathan Commission should be implemented immediately.

We should find a way out to save the farmers from the provisions of the WTO by constituting a special committee so that the challenges posed by the WTO may be coped up with. At the same time an ex-gratia payment should be made to the kins of deceased farmers. The comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is a better solution for the farmers, particularly for those who are starving to death due to the burden of loans. Hence, the same should be implemented in order to save them. The report submitted by the Swaminathan Committee is a good report and if the same is properly implemented by the Government, we will perhaps be able to save the farmers from the situation prevailing at present. The UPA Government is committed to do this under its Common Minimum Programme. I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture to bail out the farmers of this situation by tackling the problem and thereby create a better situation for them. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I have been waiting since yesterday to speak on this issue. I am really thankful to Shri Ramjilal Suman for raising this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get only five minutes as your party leader. Shri Ramjilal Suman, has already spoken for 32 minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: I will try to be brief.

This is a very serious matter. I am concerned about this issue of increasing incidents of farmers committing suicides. A large number of farmers commit suicides throughout the country, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, or Punjab.

Hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited Andhra Pradesh and gave a lot of assurances to protect the farmers and to reduce their agony. But nothing has been implemented so far. I regret to say that the Government has failed to protect the farmers. First of all I wanted to say that a number of farmers have taken this drastic step of committing suicide. The Government has not made any effort to form any consensus. I urge upon the Government to form consensus immediately in order to protect the farmers.

According to the National Commission on Farmers, the media report says that more than 30,000 farmers have already committed suicide. The situation is alarming. There are multi factors which drive the farmers to commit suicide, lack of adequate crop insurance cover, low price for their products, high interest rate charged by the moneylenders, etc. There are many other reasons, like soaring input cost, low output prices, scarcity of funds for non-farming activities, etc. The major cause is the high interest charged by the moneylenders, which the farmer has to pay through his nose. The agriculture policy has been framed. I would like to know what is the status of the policy. There were so many assurances. But nothing has been implemented and nothing has been framed. The Government investment in the agricultural sector has dropped considerably. The farmers are crying for increase in investment. On the other hand, the Government is not encouraging the private investment also.

Sir, I wanted to express my concern regarding the crop insurance. Barely 10 per cent of farmers have adequate insurance cover. The crop insurance cover has not been extended to all the crops and to all the seasons. In India, we face calamities every year. We face the problem of flood or droughts in those areas. How can we meet the losses suffered by the farmers?

Sir, I wanted to suggest that if any place is affected and the farmer is affected, the whole district is taken as a unit, not the village. So, I would like to suggest that the whole village should be taken as a unit for deciding the crop loss.

Sir, the other thing is this. How to protect the farmers as well as the crop? The quality seeds are very important for the farmers' life. Quality inputs are not accessible to farmers at reasonable prices. He has to compromise with the seeds. If you take the small farmers, they are not aware as to how to protect the crops. They repeat the same seeds also. Finally, the result is that they are not able to get the crop. Ultimately, they suffer the losses.

Sir, if you see the cotton growers, so many instances have taken place. They have suffered a lot of loss. What action is the Government of India taking? It is 'Zero'.

Sir, the next thing is regarding installation of Grain Bank so that there will be a monitoring what types of seeds can be given to the farmer. The Bank can guide the farmers as to what precaution he has to take and what type of an assurance the crop can yield so that before going for the crop, before going for the seeds, they will be able to take precautions. The Grain Banks can help them.

Sir, the other thing is that the farmers are struggling for the price. Once the crop is yielded, the farmer goes to the market. What is happening in the market? Who is going to substitute the price? Every day there is a fluctuation in the prices. There are cases that because of falling prices, even the Governments are toppled. Sir, I wanted to request that there should be monitoring of the price stability. There can be a stabilisation fund. If anything happens here or there, this fund can protect the farmers. Sir, whenever we speak, we speak only for the sake of discussion in the Parliament. It is not going to help the farmers' life in reality. The Government has given an assurance that for one hectare of land, 15 quintal of crop will be in their hands. But in reality, for one hectare of land, they are only getting four quintals of crop. How can he meet his demands? ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. But you can continue.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, I will conclude within a few minutes. Sir, this is a very important matter.

So, if you take the agricultural credit, it is a fact that agricultural credit has increased in the recent years. But, in many rural areas, commercial banks are existing. If you go to the rural areas, you can see only the cooperative banks are operating there. But, due to the rate of interest charges on farm loans, they are not interested in commercial banks. If you come to the cooperative banks, the cooperative banks define the directives of the Supreme Court and the Reserve Bank of India. If you calculate the interest, the farmers are suffering more because of the interest. Sir, in 1989-90, our CM, Shri Mulayam Singh waived off interest rate up to the tune of Rs. 10,000. They have completely waived off the interest. They have given a big relief to the farmers. So, I appeal to the Government that the same thing has to be adopted to save the small farmer. He is struggling

there. The farmers, who bought 100 hectares of land, they can go to the big banks but the small farmers cannot reach the commercial banks. The other thing is the interest rate on the credit. I think it should be 'No credit interest' at all. That is what I feel. It is because the farmer is facing a lot of problems today. He is facing water problem, electricity problem, and the pesticides problem. He is facing so many problems. If he gets the credit, from where he is going to pay the interest on the credit? This four per cent or three per cent or two per cent is immaterial. That should be reduced to the lowest. If the House accepts, that should be zero per cent.

The other thing is that after seeing the whole scenario, after seeing the whole situation of the farmers' agony, so many farmers have mentally and physically decided to change their profession. Almost 40 per cent of the farmers want to quit the agricultural field. So, I want to ask the Government what kind of alternative livelihood they can provide to the agricultural farmers, who want to quit this. There should be some employment guarantee to their families otherwise they will be finished. If you go by the younger generation, they want to contribute to the society but there is no opportunity to contribute to the society because there is no option.

Sir, I would again say that there should be introduction of some livelihood security package for the farmers providing change of choice according to the agro-ecological conditions and the market demand. Besides, the credit facility, insurance facility, market facility, and the health facility should also be provided. The agricultural sector requires the growth of agricultural mix of technology, credit, insurance and marketing support to acknowledge the connectivity of the possibility, adoption of the cooperative systems, ensuring the power supply, and water supply. The marginal farmers need the protection and a special technology for the people who are needy. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you 11 minutes. Considering your star value, I have already given you 11 minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, the Government should set up a corporation for the livestock improvement. The Agriculture Minister is here and he is very kind hearted. He has recently announced that the package will be announced to prevent farmers from committing suicides.

[Shrimati Jayaprada]

But nothing has been done in this regard so far. The Minister is very kind-hearted. I hope he would do the needful without any delay. I would request the hon. Minister to come up with a national policy so as to protect the whole community of farmers and their families from this kind of drastic measure which they have taken now.

Then, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister, through the House, that the agriculture sector should be given the status of an industry. But it should not be like the case of the entertainment industry for which just for namesake they have given the status of industry, but in reality the people of the film world are not getting any benefit out of the Government declaring it as an industry. So, I would request the Government that the agriculture sector should get the status of an industry in the real sense of the term so that our farmers can get all the facilities of an industry.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this very important discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You have covered all your points.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member, Shri Ramji Lal Suman for bringing this matter for consideration of the House. The problems of farmers are not limited to only one State. Today the suicides committed by the farmers are being discussed. This problem has assumed the proportion of a national problem. To discuss this problem under the contour of party will be injustice and dishonesty towards this problem. This should be discussed by cutting across the party line. I understand that even the discussion over this matter in this House is getting infused with the same spirit. This is a matter of happiness. One more matter of happiness is that a well wisher of the farmer is today the Minister of Agriculture. That is why there is more expectation from him as he is a great hand in the field of agriculture. He is well informed of the rural sector. His efforts are going ahead to this direction but in my opinion, what should be taken into account is how these efforts will bear fruit and how to arrive at a conclusion in this regard.

Today, we are discussing about the farmers who constitute such a single section that achieves its target

honestly. Please tell me about any section of employees that accomplishes its work with complete uprightness; whether they are engineers or any other. If an engineer is assigned to construct a 10 kilometres road, he claims a bill for 10 kilometre road by shrinking the construction to nine and a half kilometre road. There is no need to tell about the education sector. You may take any of the sector for example, their exist the cent percent probability of shirking from the duty. It is the farmer who discharge their duties honestly. There will be crops only after they sow the seeds in the field and use fertilizers of five bags and insecticides coupled with the labour of supervision. He contributes to the increase of national yield. There is none but the farmer in the rural sector which we have faith and pride. No achievement in this country can be equated with this. That is why I said that I would speak cutting across the party line. No other departments may be compared to it but it is unfortunate that the farmers are still subject the vagaries of weather and dependent on God.

Even after 57 years of Independence they are still bound to face such a situation. That is why I want to say that they constitute such a section that achieve its target honestly. They grow crops by toiling hard in the scorching heat of summer and shivering cold in the winter. If India has something to be proud of; that is nothing but the foodgrain production. India is proud of its foodgrain stock but today that too is declining.

The incidents of suicide has discouraged the farmers, so the people are continuously giving up cultivation. It is a matter of concern for this country, the House and the Parliament. That is why the House is discussing the matter of suicides being committed by the farmers who feed the entire country whether they are the soldiers fighting at the borders or the common people of the country. Nothing else but the suicides committed by the farmers can be more shameful and deplorable for us. Nowadays, farmers are compelled to commit suicides. This is very alarming situation as the cost of cultivation is going up and the price of agricultural produce is coming down. Consequently, the farmers keep on falling in the debt trap which led them to a suicidal situation. This trend is very much prevalent particularly in the cash crop producing farmers such as sugarcane grower, cotton grower, coarse grain producer of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab—most of the cases of suicides committed by the farmers have been reported from these States.

That is why I said that it was a matter of shame that the farmers, the foodgrain growers were committing suicide in a predominantly agriculture country. Today the agriculture has become a non-remunerative occupation and the farmers are subject to distress sale as far as the marketing of their raw material is concerned. The prices of agro-products are continuously on the wane. On account of agriculture being a non-remunerative occupation, the people are giving up cultivation. It was highlighted during the presentation of Budget. The determination of the rate of interest does not come under the jurisdiction of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, it comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance. However a lot of progress has been made in this regard. Once upon a time the farmers were compelled to take loan at the rate of interest ranging from 13-14 per cent to 20-21 per cent. But the hon. Minister of Finance has reduced the same to 7 per cent which deserves to be appreciated. At the same time, the availability of loan at the rate of 7 per cent is subject to a ceiling of 3 lacs which has been fixed by the hon. Minister of Finance. If the amount of loan exceeds the ceiling, higher rate of interest will be charged. Nowadays what is happening in this country is that the person living above the poverty line is getting house loan and car loan at the rate of 7-8 per cent. Some of the financial institutions have gone to the extent of providing such loans even at the rate of 4 per cent. Whereas if the farmers want to take loan from agricultural equipments, or seeds or for other agricultural purposes; 14 or 15 per cent rate of interest is charged from them. Thus it manifests the dual picture of India. Sumanji and Hannan Mollahji have rightly said that the Government had earlier constitute Swaminathan Commission. This is a very sensitive matter.

Sir, the Swaminathan Commission has recommended to provide loans to the farmers at 4 percent rate of interest. I am of the opinion that it is a good recommendation and a step in the right direction. The Minister of Agriculture is committed to the welfare of the farmers. But his efforts do not find favour with the Finance Ministry. They have stuck to their ceiling of rupees three lakh. However, the effort is praiseworthy and there is a need to ponder over ways to ensure its implementation in toto. I hope the Minister of Agriculture would take a more positive steps on this. I demand that the agriculture sector should be provided loans at four per cent interest.

The rich nations provide agricultural subsidy to the tune of four billion dollars yearly, whereas farmers in our

country get very little subsidy. If we open up our market to agricultural imports from the developed nations the prices would come down drastically and the debt burden of our farmers would mount. It is being said that WTO talks are being held in Doha and Hong Kong. But what has been the outcome? This has resulted in a slight increase in our MSP. It was fixed at Rs. 650 per quintal plus Rs. 50 as bonus. It all adds upto Rs. 700. It should be enhanced keeping in view the increase in the electricity rates and the wages of the agricultural workers. An increase would there, the farmers and they would find agriculture profitable. The MSP should be fixed at Rs. 750, and a bonus too should be given.

Wheat is being imported from a company named Australian Wheat Board, inspite of this company being indicated severely in the Volker Report? Wheat is being imported from AWB at Rs. 1050 per quintal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already taken 11 minutes. The time allotted is over. We will have to finish it. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I want to put before the House various things that are detrimental to the interest of our farmers.

[English]

Sir, this is the most important issue which is the longer interest of the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe, but what can I do? It is because the time is very restricted. How can we prolong the discussion? Now the question is that you have taken more than double the time that has been allotted. The Minister also is ready to reply today. But, there are 27 speakers. Kindly consider all these facts. Hon. Member, you also know the difficulty.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We are discussing agriculture; on which 70 per cent of the people depend for their livelihood. Seventy per cent of the Members come from rural areas and still the importance of this discussion is not being fully realized. This is unfortunate. I will not speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not get angry; do not get agitated. You are also a person to be here in the Chair. You know the difficulty. The issue is utmost important; I do not object to that, but the time constraint is there. I am going to ask you to preside over the Chair immediately after you conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir you are in the Chair, I will have to obey you. A reference was made to WTO because wheat is being imported at Rs. 1000 per quintal. I want to give another example. We have a forward Marketing Commission, which headquarter is at Mumbai. I want to inform about the work being done by it for the farmers. It has fixed the price of wheat at Rs. 1050 per quintal. Is this price actually being paid to farmers anywhere in the country? As per the forward contract it was fixed that the price of wheat would not be reduced till December, 2006, and will remain Rs. 1050 per quintal. What is this Forward market? This market is ostensibly being run to benefit the farmers. But, it is the middlemen who are being benefited. FMC was created to benefit the farmers and the price till December 2006 has been fixed at Rs. 1050 per quintal. Is the House aware that the entire profit is going to the middlemen? This is naked exploitation of the Farmers. For this reason I have compared both the situations. Wheat is being imported at Rs. 1000 quintal. And the price fixed for the farmers in the country is Rs. 1050 per quintal, which is not paid to the farmers. I am referring to this because now we do not have quantitative restrictions. With the onset of globalization and liberalization quantitative restrictions have come to an end. The entire production of America would be dumped in India. We should not let our country be turned into an international dumping market for agricultural produce. This is my fear. I would like the hon. Minister to allay my fears by imposing a countervailing duty on agricultural imports, after doing away with quantitative restrictions, so that our farmers can compete successfully with their counterparts of the advanced countries and our agricultural production does not suffer. Our farmers should be protected and that a countervailing duty must be applied.

In the past few years about 30,000 farmers have been forced to commit suicide. Monsanto, a multinational company had acquired a monopoly on wheat. This is the reason behind the suicides being committed by the farmers.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): To which country does this company belong?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: They all are more knowledgeable. I am merely speaking on this issue. The WTO has defined the support price and has directed that our MSP should be brought down. Developed and developing nations are at loggerheads, including Brazil and Argentina both of which are developing countries. The WTO held a meeting in the green room and asked India to reduce its Domestic Trade Distorting Support Price being offered in the form of MSP to the farmers. Thus they are demanding that we should reduce our MSP. The WTO has proposed we reduce this. If MSP is reduced the suicides by farmers would increase.

Sir, I will not take much time. I have the figures regarding the percentage of indebtedness of the farmers in each State. I will quote only a few states. In West Bengal, 85 per cent of small farmers, 82 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 74.5 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 64.22 per cent in Punjab and 64.5 per cent farmers are reeling under debt. This is the reason for increasing number of suicides. During 2000-2004, in Madhya Pradesh 2390 farmers committed suicide, in Uttar Pradesh 588 farmers, in Punjab 350 farmers and more than four thousand in Rajasthan during the past five years.

18.00 hrs.

I have laid special emphasis on this. As per the latest figures of the National Crime Record Bureau, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, 13,622 farmers have committed suicide ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri D. P. Yadav, please conclude. I have to make an announcement.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I am concluding. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, please wait. Hon. Members, it is already 6 o' clock. Now I have a list of 27 speakers who want to participate in the discussion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, you can extend the time of the House till the entire discussion and reply is over. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, House should be extended by an hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, if the House agrees, I have no objection in extending the time of the discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time is extended by one hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Today, the Speaker has arranged for a dinner.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a IPG meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Main Committee Room. So, we cannot extend the time of the House because it will be followed by a dinner.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can we extend the time of the House up to 8 o'clock. At 7.30 p.m., the meeting will commence. That meeting has already been fixed.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): This matter has to conclude today. The hon. Minister will be busy in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*). We have no time. The discussion has to conclude today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is busy in the Rajya Sabha. So, we will sit up to 8 o' clock.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, please conclude now. So far this simple reason, please conclude within a minute.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Will there be 'Zero Hour' today or not? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will not be any Zero Hour. Shri Yadav, please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, you have already taken more than 20 minutes. It is because of your insistence, I remain here. So, please conclude now. The matter is very urgent.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I am concluding. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Most of the suicides took place in Andhra Pradesh. Similar incidents are taking place in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Kamataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 1300 farmers have committed suicide during last three years in Vanad district of your State Kerala. As per the Bareau report the suicide cases have increased by 18%. It is official data. It has been stated in the reply of the government in the House. In a reply to the question the Government have admitted that 6,000 farmers have committed suicide during year 2003 to 2005.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, please conclude. This is too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: These incidents took place in A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Orissa and Gujarat also. It is Government's report.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my last submission. As per latest data of NSSO 40% farmers want to leave farming. 25% farmers have admitted that agriculture has become a profession of loss. 8% farmers stated that farming is a risky business therefore medium, marginal and small farmers leaving villages in large number. During year 1980-81 the development rate of agriculture sector was 3½ percentage and thereafter during the year 1986-87 it was 2% and today under the 10th Five-Year Plan it has come to 1%. Only 0.3% is being invested in the gross domestic product (GDP) for 70% rural masses of the country. Still irrigation facility is not available for 60% agriculture only 40% fields are being irrigated.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. You will not stop.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? I never expected such a thing from you.

There is a limit to everything.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: If the Central Government do not pay attention towards the problems of farmers, 60% farmers will stop doing agriculture and then our country may be forced to import wheat and rice. The Government should pay attention towards the basic problems of the farmers.

I would like to urge to hon'ble Minister that special arrangement may kindly be made to provide loan to farmers at the rate of 4 percent. Initiative should be taken in the direction of fixing support price of wheat to Rs. 700 as well as to increase irrigation capacity. Countervailing duties may kindly be imposed on imported agriculture products and arrangements of remunerative price for farmers may be ensured. If the crops are destroyed because of natural calamity, land revenue tax should be waived off. With these words I conclude.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVAI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Thank you hon. Chairman, Sir, very much for the chance given to me to participate in the discussion regarding the suicide by farmers in various parts of the country, raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

I would like to start my speech with the beautiful words of the great Tamil saint, Thiruvalluvar written in his book Thirukkural:

*"Ullundundu Valvare Valvar
Matrellam Tolundundu Pincelbava!"*

The meaning of the couplet is: "The farmers only live by right, they are producing their own food; the rest are only parasites and they depend upon the farmers." According to Thiruvalluvar the farmers are the great people and most respectable community. But what is the present situation of the farmers in our country? They are committing suicide. We all feel sad and depressed to hear about the farmers' suicide. Of course, it is the great concern of the entire nation, cutting across the Party lines. Certainly, it is not the concern of any one Party.

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had rightly said that our country lives in villages. But the farmers who live in villages are not living. They are committing suicide. They are dying. Sir, 59 years have passed since Independence. Even after the implementation of so many Five-Year Plans, still so many farmers are living below the poverty line. They are struggling very hard to fulfil their basic needs. For so many farmers, to earn a single piece of bread is like climbing up the Himalayas. Because of this bad situation that prevailed all over the country, so many farmers are committing suicide. Committing suicide due to lack of bread is something condemnable, undesirable and unacceptable.

Of course, our UPA Government which is very much keen about the farmers' welfare should take some special, preventive measures to save the farmers from committing suicide.

At this juncture, I would like to say a few words about our most revered and respected leader, Dr. Kalam Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who is the permanent saviour and protector of the farmers. I hope that no one will deny my words after knowing the

fact that Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has waived the entire loans of the farmers, nearly about Rs. 7,000 crore, and that too immediately after he assumed power as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. What had happened in the previous AIADMK Government? Repeated petitions and requisitions made no change in the policy of the Government. What was the result? In Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu, nearly 100 farmers committed suicide. Now, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has come into power and saved the farmer. The whole country knows that the first signature he has put on the file is to give one kilogram of rice for only Rs. 2 to all the people of Tamil Nadu, including the poor farmers.

During his last regime, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had started *uzavar sandies*, that is, kisan markets in all the big cities of Tamil Nadu to help the farmers get better revenue. Here, an hon. Member referred to the marketing of the farmers' produce. For that purpose only, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had made *uzavar sandies*. This should be spread throughout the country. He had also constituted institutions for farmers to sell their agricultural produce at a reasonable price. Another point worth appreciation is that our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, is going to give two acres of land to each landless farmer. This point is worth appreciation.

Of course, our UFA Government under the eminent guidance of our hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is taking so many good measures for the welfare of the farmers. Agriculture is really a productive vocation. Realising that, our hon. Finance Minister has rightly said that unless agriculture grows at four per cent, whatever combination and permutation we may try, we cannot achieve ten per cent growth as our Prime Minister wishes. He has consciously made the Budget farmer-friendly. In a revolutionary move, the hon. Finance Minister has proposed to increase the quantum of farm credit to the level of Rs. 1,75,000 crore in 2006-07. Going an extra mile to help the farmers, hon. Finance Minister proposes to fix the lending rate of farm credit at seven per cent and the Government proposes to provide Rs. 1700 crore from the budgetary resources towards interest liability.

Generation of employment in the rural sector is a crucial weapon to combat poverty and hunger. The total allocation for rural employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is Rs. 14,300 crore. The Farmers Research Institute in Thanjavur district of Tamil

Nadu has been upgraded to the national level, but generally in the agriculture sector, the scenario is nothing but depressing.

18.13 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The floods and droughts are the main calamities which affect the farmers' lives. Insufficient rainfall and inadequate irrigation facilities are the main causes of farmers' suicides. The Agriculture Minister is sitting here. I would request him that the agriculture should be rejuvenated through an appropriate policy mix covering agricultural credit and other inputs such as quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, agro-processing and marketing.

Irrigation infrastructure has to be strengthened by desilting a large number of tanks and ponds and the connected incoming and outgoing channels. Sustained and continuous education to the farmers should be organised on progressive agro-technology, better water management techniques and cost-effective agro-management methods. The programme of rejuvenation of agriculture should cover its varied branches *viz.* horticulture, sericulture, pisciculture and veterinary activities.

I would also like to request that the National Commission on Farmers under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan should take up my constituency, Ramanathapuram, for detailed scanning, and evolve a blueprint for comprehensive agricultural development.

Sir, I have already mentioned in my previous speech that in my area, Chakkarai, Kottai, Kalari and Ramnad, big tanks should be converted into big reservoirs. Desalination plants should be started in so many places like Kanchirankudi in my area. The rainwater should be stored in Malattaru and Paralaiaru areas. It will be useful when the rain falls.

The Government of India should sanction more funds for watershed projects under DPAP, IWDP and NWDPA.

We should give encouragement to cultivate bio-diesel plant *jatropha* in water-scarce areas like Ramanathapuram. In my area, cotton is grown in 6,000 hectares of land. I would suggest that more remunerative prices should be given to the farmers.

I would also like to state that the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations -- recently presented to the

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

Government of India -- should be implemented with vigour with a view to rejuvenating the cooperative sector all over the country.

Our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has recently said that full compensation should be given to the farmers when nature fails. Of course, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi is a man of the masses, and also a friend of the farmer community.

The other day our Agriculture Minister gave an elaborate speech covering all the fields in agriculture. He very well knows about the struggle of the farmers to lead a better life. Therefore, I earnestly ask the Government and our hon. Agriculture Minister to allocate more funds for Tamil Nadu where our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi will take all sorts of protective measures for the farmers. Of course, the cases of suicide of farmers would also be completely eradicated from Tamil Nadu.

I thank you for the opportunity given to me.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful that you have given me an opportunity to speak. All the hon'ble Members of this August House gave their valuable suggestions regarding this important subject. I do not think it appropriate to repeat them. If the Government fail to solve a problem even after 50-60 years in this agriculture based country, it is a lapse on the part of Government instead of farmers. If the doctor is unable to diagnose the disease of any patient, then he is not supposed to be called as 'Doctor.' The Government is still unable to find the way-out for the problems of farmers in this agriculture-based country where the large portion of agriculture depends on economy of the country. It is really regrettable that many leaders who became ministers are also unable to find out the solution. The farmers are neglected in every field. No concession is given to the farmers in interest rates while giving them loans. People have been demanding time and again that agriculture should be given the status of industry. Concession given to industries in general should also be given to farmers. Water, power, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipments as per their requirements should be provided to them at concessional rates. Just a few minutes back many of the hon. Members pointed out relaxations provided to the farmers in developed country are so many, whereas those

provided to the farmers in our country are so less. There is great difference. The hon'ble Member, Hannan Mollah has just presented the data which exhibits that the Governments of our country do not care about farmers and providing relaxation to them and the responsibility of fixing the production cost has been assigned to the people who do not have any knowledge in the field of agriculture. Whereas there are many agriculture universities in the country and if production cost is fixed keeping in view the production cost assessed by agriculture universities, there would be no need of any commission. The Government deliberately ignore this, as the Government is not in favour of giving remunerative prices to farmers. All the seed providing companies of our country have been taken over by the multinationals which result into higher costs as well as higher rates.

Due to price rise the farmers are shifting to other occupations. Today the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that about three crores farmers have left the agriculture. The motion, moved by Shri Suman, regarding agriculture is an important motion.

Hon'ble Chairman, today seventy percent farmers are facing a crisis. Keeping in view this serious problem, the government should prepare a programme that would help the farmers to increase their agriculture. If there is any shortcoming in the government policy, they should certainly give it a serious thought. I am happy to know that according to data there was available no farmer died of hunger or pressure of loan in Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have prepared beneficial schemes for the farmers from time to time. Sometimes, the loan given to farmers and interest thereon are waived but if we go through the data of the State from where our minister for agriculture comes we will find that the farmers have died due to pressure of loan. The Government should pay attention to fact that the farmers of Maharashtra are dying of loan pressure. It is the state of our minister for agriculture. The Government should reframe the policy. The agriculture policy of our country is weaker in comparison to the agriculture policy of other countries. This is the matter of great concern. Our country is the largest democracy in the world and the largest populations solely depend on agriculture but it is a matter of great concern that agriculture policy has not been formulated. If we have no money, the farmers have no money; the industrial production would serve no purpose. Therefore, I urge that there should be uniformity in industrial production and agriculture production; there should be insurance scheme for the farmers and for their crops. The crop insurance scheme prepared by the

government is meant for some main crops. It does not provide cover to the crops of each and every farmer. The government provide insurance cover for all the things but not for the crops of farmers. It is a fact that major contribution to revenue is made by the farmers but neither any remunerative scheme is made for them nor they are given loans for agriculture purposes. Their contribution goes financing industries belonging to big capitalists. Everybody tries to pressurize them. No guarantee is given for the cost of agriculture produce. There is no guarantee of water, electricity and instruments for them. There is no guarantee of loan for them. For all such purposes they have to depend either on nature or on their fate. He is left loan to face his troubles. Therefore, it is essential in the context of problems of farmers being discussed here that the hon'ble minister should formulate schemes for giving remunerative prices to the farmers and made a provision to provide guarantee for the same. Secondly prices of industrial products and agricultural produce should be fixed judiciously. The efforts should be made to check the large-scale acquisition of farmer's land. Do not increase the population since the area of land is decreasing and the farmers are turning landless. The number of landless people is increasing day by day. The small farmers are losing their lands. The schemes for the welfare of farmers are becoming ineffective. After going through the budget of the Government of India you can see that the government have been increasing the budget for all the departments but the budget for the agriculture sector has always been decreasing. Continuous decrease in budget has been causing difficulties for the farmers. I urge that the farmers should be paid for their produce, at the rate of official cost calculated of the crops being planted in agricultural universities, this will help the farmers in getting the proper price of their produce and there would be no need for the setting up of an Agriculture Price Commission.

Today, we talk about World Trade Organization. We would have to make efforts for saving our farmers against the exploitation by capitalism. The foreign money which is being used to promote our agriculture sector, causing exploitation of farmers. The cost on tradition work of farmers is increasing and no efforts have been made by you to give relief to the farmers to neutralize it. The major drawback of the Department of Agriculture is, that it has not cared to give relief to the farmer in the budget for his increasing expenses towards loan, resources, electricity and water in the ratio of increasing expenditure on

agriculture. Due to this reason the agriculture is becoming non-remunerative and the farmers are compelled to quit agriculture.

Today, it is the need of the hour to understand the basic problem. In India the agriculture is incurring losses because no increase is made in budget in the ratio of cost increase in agriculture. It does not mean that the Government are not aware of this. There are senior officers, learned experts and learned agricultural experts in the government. Even being aware of the situation the farmers are being exploited and as a result of it he is on the verge of starvation, he is under heavy pressure of loan and he is quitting agriculture. All these things show the negligence of the government towards farmers. The Government should make efforts for saving the farmers after considering this serious problem and efforts should be made to save the agricultural produce of the country otherwise, the country may not be saved from the ensuing problems.

I therefore, urge that the government should give some guarantee and all types of facilities to the farmers and announce to give remunerative price of the agricultural produce. For this the loan should be given on low rate of interest, prices should be fixed in the ratio of production cost, a guarantee should be given for the electricity, water and other resources essential for the agriculture, and all types of facilities should be given to farmers and the load of financial burden on them should be removed by increasing the amount in the budget for this purpose.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South Central):
Hon. Chairman, Sir, we have only 15 per cent of cultivable land covered under irrigation in not only Maharashtra but in the entire country as well and the rest of 85 per cent dry farming land is dependent upon monsoon. Today the prices of necessary tools needed for agriculture such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and power and other equipments are escalating day by day. The production cost of crops is also increasing while there has been a decrease in the number of institutions providing credit, the farmer's are reeling under the vicious circle of credit which compels them to commit suicides. The chain of suicides which critically started from Andhra Pradesh has now reached to the states of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and now Maharashtra. 650 farmers have committed suicides in Maharashtra till December, 2005 and 500 farmers have expressed their intention to commit suicides to the President for their inability to pay electricity

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

bills. The Agriculture Minister who had also been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra is present here along with another ex-Chief Minister of the State who is now the minister of Power. Before elections, he had made an announcement to provide free power which ultimately helped them in winning the elections and I do not want to go into the politics of it. Now his party is ruling the state in fact it is also the ruling party in the centre.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would submit that dams should be constructed at the places which have less water because farming can only go on with water and power and power should at least be available at places where there is water. Power is not being supplied free of cost there yet people are still demanding for it. I am not aware of the relationship between the agriculture minister and power minister but if they have better coordination they can fulfill the promises made to the people of Maharashtra and then target of supplying free power to the farmers. But now they are saying that they are willing to pay for it if it is not supplied to them free of cost. The Government should provide subsidy to them by making payment to cover the loss suffered by them in the process of farming. For example if a farmer spends Rs. one lakh on farming but gets the produce of Rs. 50 thousand only, the Government should compensate the entire loss. The Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister have announced credit at 2 per cent interest. But I would submit that even bringing down it to zero per cent would not serve the purpose unless and until he is able to recover his production cost, he is not going to gain anything. Therefore, I request you to look into this. I would like to give an example in this regard. A farmer's girl was called in to participate in a debate and the subject was related to the suicides of farmers. She stood second in the debate and was selected for prize. Her views were based on the condition of her father and other family members and she also committed suicide later on. This is the situation of Maharashtra today. Therefore, I would like to submit and I do not want to take much time of yours that the Central Government Agriculture pricing Commission which fixes the minimum support price every year fails to provide proper rate of produces to the farmers because these are based on dry farming and it is not fixed keeping in view the even increasing production cost.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Minister through you to have political will. The subsidy on agriculture in the country should be increased. If you go through the figures of year 1991 to 2001 you will find that 11 crores and 30 lakh people were engaged in

agriculture work in 1991 whereas in the year 2001 only 10 crore 30 lakh people were engaged. In this way, 1 crore people have left agriculture work during these 10 years. The Hon. Minister should look into the reasons responsible for it and why people in large numbers are leaving agriculture work. The cultivated area in Punjab rather in the entire country has also decreased. We should try to know about the reasons responsible for it. 89 per cent farmers engaged in cotton farming are on the brink of committing suicide. The Government has fixed the rate of cotton at Rs. 2000 per quintal whereas in the case of BT Cotton it is Rs. 3000 per quintal and nobody knows why. The Minister should pay attention to it and bring priority in the price of both the cotton.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Rawale, please conclude.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding my speech I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would precisely make some points on farmers' problems.

Sir, we hear that labour class is closing the factories and going on strike if its demands are not met. We see the Government employees boycotting office, not doing work and going on strike if the Government's attention is not drawn to their demands. We see students closing the educational institutions, come to streets and go on strike. But, Sir, have you ever heard farmers stopping ploughing their fields or not planting seedlings because the Government is not heeding to their demands? I think this is the only community in the country which never stops cultivation and never goes on strike. That perhaps is one of the main reasons why the Government's attention is not drawn to the genuine problems of the farmers of this country. If the farmers stop ploughing or stop farming then the whole country's as also the Government's attention will be drawn to their problems. I think that is the shortcoming with the farmers of this country. Thanks to the farmers who feed the society and give food security to the society but their own security is not guaranteed under this Government.

Generally, from which States the reports of farmers' suicides are coming? Basically, such reports are coming

from Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Vidharbha region of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and some other States. If you see, the first phase of green revolution was said to be successful in these States. We claim that the first phase of the green revolution in this country is successful in these States. This is the irony. The States where the green revolution has been successful, the farmers are committing suicides in thousands. The green revolution is successful and we claim that we have increased the per hectare yield and in total the productivity has increased. This is a fact. Our production during last several years has grown. Our per hectare yield has grown.

But the financial and economic conditions of the farmers are not satisfactory. That is the irony of the situation. It seems contradictory. Where lies the defect? The defect certainly is with the agricultural policy of this Government.

The farmers are producing crops and the farmers themselves are searching for the markets to sell their produce, at least at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government, if not at a better price. The Government because of its defective policy is destroying the market of the farmers.

Sir, when you were making your submissions, I was listening with rapt attention the very emotional and powerful speech of yours. You had correctly mentioned that we are importing wheat from Australia. I do not want to elaborate on this point. Many other hon. Members also have dealt with this matter in some details. I would only like to know from the Government if it is a fact that the firm that is supplying wheat to this country is supplying it at a more costly rate than the rate that is available in the country. Is that firm a blacklisted firm under the "Oil for Food" programme? I want a specific reply from the hon. Minister—is that a blacklisted firm under the "Oil for food" programme? There is speculation. There is apprehension. Has there been any underhand dealing in this import of wheat at the cost of the interest of thousands and thousands of farmers of this country? Where shall our farmers go? Our farmers are able to offer wheat at a cheaper price, but this Government is refusing to take it and instead the Government prefers to import from an Australian company that is blacklisted under the "Oil for Food" programme at a higher price. Where will the farmers go? They would have to go and commit suicide. This Government is destroying the market of the farmers. This

Government because of its defective policy is responsible for the suicides by farmers and nobody else.

Sir, another point that I would like to raise is about rate of customs duty charged on agricultural imports. I would like to give an example. Let us take the case of cotton. It is grown in huge quantity in the Vidarbhha region of Maharashtra from where the hon. Minister for Agriculture himself hails. Why are the cotton growers committing suicide? What is the rate of custom duty we are imposing? If I am correct, during the year 2004-05, I am not aware of the latest position, only 10 per cent custom duty was charged. But now under the WTO agreement we are at liberty to charge 150 per cent of custom duty. For whose interest has this been done? There is plenty of cotton grown in our country. But cotton is being imported at the cost of the cotton growers of this country. This Government is destroying the market of the farmers and is responsible for pushing the farmers to take this extreme step of committing suicide. We are importing cotton at the cost of the cotton growers of this country; we are importing wheat at a costlier price than prices that the farmers of our own country are offering. This Government is destroying the market and are not allowing our farmers to sell their produce at a proper rate.

Sir, many hon. Members have dealt elaborately with the subject of defective policy of agriculture credit. It is a fact that credit is a must in a capital intensive agriculture. We cannot go without credit. We have to make credit flow to the farmers. Thanks to this Government that flow of credit has been doubled and tripled during the last two years. I admit this. But that is not the solution to the problem. As one would know that the compound interest on agriculture credit is usurious. It is against the Usurious Loan Act of 1918. It is against the law. During our freedom struggle against the colonial powers, our farmers were concurrently fighting a battle against the landlords and the *Zamindars* and moneylenders. It was a part of our freedom struggle and a part of the struggle of the late Mahatma Gandhi. On one hand there was a struggle against the Britishers and on the other hand there was a struggle simultaneously going on against the landlords and the exploiters.

And what is happening today? The same thing is happening today. Notwithstanding the clear policy and unambiguous law, compound interest is levied on farmers by all credit institutions. Who is responsible for this? It is

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

not only that compound interest is being charged on the farmers but also heavy service charges are added on them by every intermediary institution adding extra levy on farmers. So, the burden is ultimately on the farmers.

I also accuse the Reserve Bank of India to be guilty of criminal negligence on this point. Why, after 58 years of Independence, the same British colonial style is being continued and the farmer is pushed to committing suicide? Who is responsible for this? Is it the defective credit policy which is forcing the farmers to commit suicide. Who can save the farmers in the country? If the Government is apathetic to the problems of the farmers and if the Government is interested to continue with the colonial rule, practice, system and tradition which are against the farmers, then who, in this land, can save our farmers? During the last 8 to 9 years, more than 30,000 farmers have committed suicide and I fear that in the coming years, many more thousands of farmers may commit suicide in spite of the big talks of this Government. So, the Government has to change its credit policy.

This Government has appointed the National Farmers Commission headed by Shri Swaminathan. Many hon. Members were mentioning about the Swaminathan Commission. There are two or three major recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. Sir, I think you had very rightly pointed it out. You were saying Commissions after Commissions on agriculturists and farming community are being set up by Government after Government. But none of the pro-farmers recommendation is being implemented.

One of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, if I am correct, is immediate debt relief. What measures has the Government thought of for immediate debt relief? All of us know that farmers in this country are already in debt trap. What specific proposal is the Government contemplating to redeem the farmers of the country from the debt trap? Has the Government any specific planning for this? Unless you free the farmers from the debt trap, you cannot stop them from committing suicide. It will continue to happen and that will be criminal negligence on the part of this Government.

What was another major recommendation of the Swaminathan Commission? I do not agree with all its recommendations but I do agree with some of the recommendations of the Commission. One of the major recommendation was to bring down the interest rate to 4 per cent. One hon. Member was very correct in saying

that it was the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee which had drastically cut down the rate of interest. Of course, I admit that in this year's budget, the Government has announced reduction of interest by 2 per cent. But the Commission recommended that the rate of interest should not be more than four per cent. I would like to know from the Minister specifically whether they are planning to reduce the rate of interest of the farmers. Is the Government thinking to reduce the rate of interest further in the interest of the farming community and in the interest of the whole country because they are providing food security to the country?

In my speech on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture in the first part of the Session, I had mentioned one point and I would again like to repeat that point. How much loan is on the heads of the corporates of the country? The corporates owe a huge amount to the bankers. If I am correct, it is more than Rs. 1 lakh crores. The corporates have consumed the property of the country from the bankers to the extent of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore. How much loan is on the head of the farmers? During the last eight years, people say that nearly 50,000 farmers have committed suicide due to debt burden caused by increasing input cost and inappropriate prices of the farmers produce.

I would like to know as to how many corporates have committed suicide during the last ten or fifteen years. Those corporates, who have consumed the whole property of the country, with their big bellies, are smiling, laughing and enjoying, but these poor farmers who have taken Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 are pushed to the gallows and are pushed towards committing suicide. This is the irony of the situation. This is due to the defective policy of the Government. The Government has no courage to get back the loans from the corporates, from the big people. None of the corporates are sent to jail. But the poor farmer is sent to the civil jail. The most uncivilised system in the country is the continuation of the civil jail system. The Indian farmer, to save his prestige, prefers to commit suicide rather than going to the civil jail. I urge upon the Government to immediately come up with an amendment to stop the civil jail system. ...*(Interruptions)* The fact is that farmers are going to jail. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no Central law. Some of the State Governments are responsible for this. I have written twice to the State Governments, including your Government. These Governments are not taking corrective actions. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. PRASANNA ACHARYA: You can come out with a federal law. ...(*Interruptions*) You can have a Central law to ban all these things. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is the State subject as per the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Centre be silent spectator to this uncivilised law? You are the Minister in the federal Government. ...(*Interruptions*) This has been the practice in this country that the Central Government passes the buck to the State Governments and the State Governments pass the buck to the Central Government. This is most unfortunate. This is federal country. ...(*Interruptions*) You can discuss it in the NDC. You are frequently meeting the Chief Ministers and the State representatives. Why can you not take up the matter there, discuss it and sort it out? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have done not only that. Your Chief Minister has been appointed as Chairman to take decisions. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

DR. PRASANNA ACHARYA: It is not the question of any State. This is sheer politics being played on the farmers' problem. I am not playing politics. Passing on the buck to the States and the Chief Ministers is not going to solve the problem of the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Not a single member played politics except you. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. PRASANNA ACHARYA: Another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is to the assurance he has made during his speech on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. He has made a categorical assurance in respect of crop insurance policy. Since the last two years there has been a consistent and continuous demand to plug the loopholes in the insurance scheme. You had categorically assured, through this House, to the nation that you will certainly bring changes in the policy. The block and *tehsil* is a unit now. The demand is, let the *gram* be made a unit. If it is not possible to make *gram* a unit, then let *gram panchayat* be made a unit so that more and more number

of farmers are benefited. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when these changes would be brought about by the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

Another issue is the settlement of insurance claims. Settlement of insurance claims should be done before the commencement of the next crop. That is the most important thing. In some cases the settlement of claims is delayed so much that the farmers are not benefited ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to talk about the distress sale of agricultural produce. I hail from the State of Orissa. The main crop of Orissa is paddy. You sent Food Corporation of India people to procure it directly. Of late, since last one or two years, you have deputed NAFED to Orissa to procure paddy. I would like to draw your attention as to what the NAFED people are doing.

They are not going to the farmers. They are not going to any market yard. They are not purchasing a grain of paddy directly from the farmers. I would like to tell, for your information, Sir, that they are sitting in air-conditioned hotel rooms. They are dealing with the middlemen and the big rice millers. They are handing over the money to the rice millers. They are not touching the farmers. They are procuring paddy from the middlemen. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda, please start.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: You are giving more price for conversion of paddy to rice to the NAFED people. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Prabodh Panda.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, just a minute. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I have one or two proposals to the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: As you know, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) does not reflect the ground reality. A scientific method should be adopted to decide the Minimum Support Price of the agricultural produce. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Panda, are you not going to speak?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, how can I speak if he does not conclude? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: The agricultural commodity price should be linked with the price index. One National Farmers Welfare Fund should be constituted.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank and congratulate hon. Ramji Lal Sumanji as he has brought out this matter for discussion and he initiated the discussion.

Sir, several Members have already spoken on this matter. The farmers' suicides have become a regular phenomenon in a number of countries. Several hon. Members have already narrated about the sufferings, the agonies, and the plight of the farmers. The plight of farmers is not a new thing in our country. Our country has witnessed severe problems and plights faced by the farmers for years together, even decades together. But the new thing is that this spate of committing suicide has developed since Nineties. I must say that this is an outcome of liberalisation programme. This is an outcome of reforms programme pursued in agricultural sector. It is very difficult to tell the exact number of suicides committed by farmers. It may be 30,000 or 40,000 or more than that. The most number of suicides committed is in Andhra Pradesh. It is a fact that it is not confined to Andhra Pradesh only but it can be seen in most of the agriculturally developed countries and the so-called developed States and the so-called States of Green Revolution. So, this is the outcome of the First Green Revolution. Our Government are contemplating to implement the Second Green Revolution. If this is the experience that we have gathered during the First Green Revolution, what would be our fate in case of Second Green Revolution?

Sir, I would like to refer the State of Maharashtra, which is also the State of hon. Minister. Only in the year

1999, it appeared in the Press that in Vidharba region due to crop failure and mounting debt as well, the total number of suicides committed by farmers was 14,883. I am not going to narrate all these suicide spates all over the country. It is very often said and narrated by several Members. But, what are the main things? Several agencies and experts have just inspected and visited several areas. What have they observed? The point is that among the total suicide cases, the number of cases regarding small, marginal and tenant farmers is overwhelming. The number of cases of this section is overwhelming. It is the age group of 35-40, which is giving a harrowing picture.

19.00 hrs.

So, what are the main causes? It has been observed that the institutional credit is not reaching adequately to these sections. The non-institutional credit, that is, the credit from the moneylenders, fertilizers and pesticides agents, and traders, they supply 90 per cent of the total credit at exorbitant interest. This is the picture. So, my first point is this. I am not putting this question before only our Agriculture Minister. I am posing this question and putting this question before the Government itself. Only Agriculture Ministry is not capable to save the farmers and improve the agriculture *per se*. So, the attitude of the Government is to be discussed first. What is the attitude of our Government to the farmers, to the marginal farmers, to the small farmers, to the tenants and the large sections of the peasant communities? What is that attitude? We have heard so many good words since independence. Lal Bahadur Shastri pronounced the slogan '*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*'. Madam Shrimati Indira Gandhiji pronounced the slogan '*Garibi Hatao*'. Now, friends from NDA during their rule pronounced one slogan '*Kisano Ki Azadi*'. What have we witnessed during the NDA regime? The '*Kisano Ki Azadi*' rendered freedom to the *kisans* for committing suicides. An enormous number of suicides took place during the NDA regime. Now, National Common Minimum Programme has come. In National Common Minimum Programme, six points are there and one of the important points is linked with the farmers' problems, with the agricultural problems. It is all right. But, the point is that the attitude has not changed. There was a major spate of committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Government has been changed. During NDA regime, an enormous number of suicides took place. The Union Government has changed. The Government has changed but the policy has not changed so far. I can just recall that National Agriculture

Policy, which has been brought out by the NDA Government, still exists. The National Agriculture Policy is basically anti-farmer, and is basically pro-multinational corporates. The National Agriculture Policy is contending for corporatization in agricultural land. This policy exists. So, first of all, our Government should bring out a new agricultural policy that is pro-poor, pro-agriculture, pro-farmer and that is mainly for small, marginal and tenant farmers and replace the old one. That should be the first task of our Government. Sir, if we come to the point of credit flow, our UFA Government has already announced that the credit flow in agriculture would be doubled in three years. But, in spite of that, the institutional credit does not reach the stipulated target. It is even less than 18 per cent.

Sir, what is the budget outlay that has been made to agriculture sector?

19.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So far, not even seven per cent outlay has been made towards agriculture whereas 26 per cent is coming to our GDP from agriculture. Then, 65 per cent of our people are engaged in agriculture, but only one per cent of our GDP is allocated to agriculture. This is the attitude of the Government towards agriculture sector and towards the farming community. That is why, I charge this Government that they are not in a position to change the line of the policy adopted by the NDA Government and they are following the footsteps of the NDA Government. Mere big and boastful words will not serve the purpose. Some bold initiatives have to be taken to help our farmers.

Sir, if we analyse the reasons for farmers' suicides, we will find that they are, failure of monsoon, lack of comprehensive crop insurance scheme, lack of remunerative prices for their produce, etc. So, I would like to suggest that the Government should immediately set up a commission to go into the root causes of farmers' suicides in our country. The National Commission on Agriculture is already existing. They may be entrusted to go into this matter in detail. I agree that agriculture, land reform, irrigation etc. are coming under the State List. So, only the Union Government cannot do everything. All State Governments should be involved in this matter. The Union Government should call a meeting of all State Governments and they should chalk out some programmes so that the problems of farmers can be solved.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I will conclude. I have only a few points more.

Sir, the Government should take immediate steps to apply the Rural Debt Relief Act to farmers' debts so as to scale down the debt burden of farmers and also reschedule the payment so that they can make payment in easy instalments.

Then, the Government should regularise or even legalise the business of money lending by private money lenders in rural areas. Their business operation can be brought under the close scrutiny of local Revenue Officers and Village Panchayats.

Now, I come to the issue of subsidy. The Government should give subsidy directly to farmers. In Japan, America and European countries, subsidy is given directly to farmers. The same should be done in our country also.

Then, the main reason for poverty among our farmers is lack of land reforms. So, the Government should take urgent steps to implement land reforms in the country.

There is an urgent need for re-introducing and promoting organic farming. This is very important. Then, I would request the Government that they should fix the Minimum Support Price in such a way that it meets the production cost of farmers.

I would once again like to submit that the interest rate on farmers' loans should be reduced. Then, I demand that the recommendations of Dr. Swaminathan's Committee should be implemented immediately. In China, they are providing loans to farmers at zero per cent interest. In our country also, the Government should consider providing loans to small and marginal farmers at zero per cent interest.

Sir, we are approaching 60th year of our independence, so I request the Agricultural Ministry that the year 2007 be declared as Agriculture Year. This should be our task and this should be our slogan. I think, the hon. Minister of Agriculture will think over it, ponder over it. All these points which have been brought out here should be taken note of and implemented in the right earnest for the sake of our farmers.

[Translation]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Thank you, Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in Punjabi on this important subject pertaining to the farmers. Many of my colleagues have expressed concern over the suicides being committed by the farmers throughout the country. Sir, the Government is responsible for these suicides. Only Government can save these farmers. The farmers are committing suicide due to the wrong policies being pursued by the Government.

Sir, at the time of independence our country was in the throes of hunger and starvation. At that time, India had a population of 45 crores. 58 years after independence, we now have a population of over 100 crores. Our farmers worked hard and made us self-sufficient in foodgrains. Starvation- deaths became things of the past. However, the present government is of the opinion that we do not have sufficient foodgrains. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister is importing 5 lakh to 50 lakh tonnes of wheat to tide over this so-called crisis. Unfortunately, this is against the interest of the farmers of our country. The Indian farmers are being paid a paltry sum of Rs. 650 for one quintal of wheat. However, imported wheat is being sold at the rate of Rs. 950 per quintal. Sir, I want to assure the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister that if the government agrees to pay Rs. 1000 for one quintal of wheat to the farmers of Punjab, our farmers will work hard to produce enough wheat for feeding the entire country.

Sir, Punjab comprises of just 1.5% of the total landmass of India. Our population is only 2% of the entire population of India. However, we are contributing 60% wheat and rice in the central pool. In spite of this achievement, 2116 farmers have committed suicide in Punjab in recent years. Why is this so?

Deputy Speaker Sir, since 1967, the price of Diesel has increased by 42%, the price of chemicals and fertilisers has increased by 31%, the price of tractors has increased by 22% the price of labour has increased by 20% but the price of agricultural produce has increased only by 9% . This is the stark reality. As such, the farmers are committing suicide. The size of land-holdings are getting reduced whereas the population of farmers is increasing. More than 52% farmers in Punjab own less

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

than 3 acres of land. 37% farmers own less than 7 acres of land. 89% farmers are groaning under the yoke of debt of Rs. 20,000 crores. These are revealing figures. As such, the farmers are desperate and are committing suicide.

The developed countries give huge subsidy to their agriculture sector. However, we are being asked to reduce the subsidy we give to our farmers. It is indeed unfortunate that India is in the vice-like grip of bureaucracy. Those, who have nothing to do with agriculture have been made members or Chairmen of various Commissions and committees dealing with agriculture. These ignorant people do not know anything about the agony of farmers, but they make policies that affect our farmers. How, then can we save our farmers?

Deputy Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawarji is a learned person. He hails from an agricultural family. He should take concrete steps to help the farmers. All the parties should work together to find a solution to the problems of farmers. 70% MPs have a rural background. But, we do not work unitedly. The farmers have to unite and demand their rights. In the general budget, we must give the farmers their due.

Deputy Speaker Sir, the small farmers are selling off their lands. The Chief Minister of Punjab, is selling off lands to Reliance company. Multi-national companies are purchasing lands from poor and hapless farmers at throwaway prices. Injustice is being meted out to farmers.

Sir, if a farmer fails to return his loan, his son has to repay the loan. However, industrialists gobble up thousands of crores of rupees as loan . Even if they don't repay it, no action is taken against them.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want that the loans of farmers should be waived off.

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Yes, Sir. We can save these hapless farmers only when we write off their loans. The rate of interest on agricultural loans should be further reduced. And more subsidy should be granted to the farmers. Only then can we bail out our farmers from this mess.

Farmers are the heart and soul of India. If we want to save our farmers, if we want to save India, we must

rise above petty politics and vote-bank politics. We must work unitedly to provide relief and succour to our farmers in distress. This is the need of the hour.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deograh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my gratitude to you. I do not want to go into its background. I also express my gratitude to Ramjilal Suman for raising those important issues. I do not think that this problem can be solved through this discussion. Being a young student I would like to put a few things before an important leader of the country who is shouldering the responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture. In the month of March when Budget Session was going on he had created a confusion. He said that the farmers committing suicide are not common farmers of the country and that does not come under his purview. The incident of suicides are taking place in certain states. Incidence of suicides is taking place only in the states which are crop oriented and where cardamom, grapes, cotton are being grown in large scale. In this context, Sharad Pawarji had said that he was studying about it. He had also issued directions also. So far as I remember he had not given any conclusive statements in this regard. He put glaring things before us and said that he need to pay attention and that he was studying the reasons thereof?

Several theories and several subjects are being put before us. Several hon. Members have also expressed their view on these. I have some data. I was going through a statement of Dr. Vandana Shiva working in the agriculture sector in the name of Beej Yatra. I cannot authenticate it but it has been published in the newspaper and forty thousand farmers of our country have committed genocide. This has happened even after sixty years of independence. In this situation we will have to think whether thousand farmers have really committed suicides. If this has happened then what are reasons behind it. Being a student I would like to raise a broad question. Three things are coming to my mind which have been mentioned by the several members. Public Sector banks do not adopt same criteria for giving loan to agriculture sector as they adopt for business sector and industries. Hence, the farmers come into the trap of money lenders, middlemen and the impartment people of the area. This is the main reason they are compelled to take loan on exorbitant rate of interest. Perhaps being located in urban areas they are asked to come to banks again and again. Banks should be cooperative but they are not as cooperative as they should have been and thus the main reason of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members have mentioned about Punjab. Without making mention about Green Revolution any discussion on agriculture is incomplete. Forty years have passed since Green Revolution has taken place. Green Revolution was started in sixties. Punjab, Haryana, western UP and to some extent Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and certain areas were beneficiaries of Green Revolution.

Apart from this I would like to give an example of BIT cotton. Some eye opening facts are coming out regarding foreign countries including Monsanto with regard to B.T. cotton. We have to think that whether these companies should be allowed to work in India? Recently US President visited India. Whole country was fascinated that the world leader has come to India and he will give treasure. Nuclear deal was also signed. In my opinion it will also impact agriculture sector. In my opinion research should be conducted in the field of biodiversity basis of which is seed and agriculture exchange programme should be organized. The Minister of Agriculture should tell us about the position of Seed Bill. Perhaps a draft Bill has been introduced in the House or it is before the Standing Committee. In my opinion on the issue of seeds our farmers are being cheated. I want agriculture minister give us assurance about the time by which he will come out with seeds policy. We have come to know that the foreign seeds companies are doing business of worth of rupees four thousand of crores annually but there is no structured value measurement of it. A seed policy should be brought because in certain states authorities or middlemen are selling sub standard seeds in the market. I think that there should be some control regime for them. State government or Central Government should owe this responsibility. I do not want to be involved into this debate. But ultimate sufferer are farmers. Hence, I demand that a new regime should be brought.

This issue is related to insurance. This debate is going on for several years. For the first time it was implemented in a few districts. I think this is a step taken in the right direction. But confusion is increasing. Debt trap, seed policy and insurance and there issues with regard to which we have not formulated any concrete programme even after 60 years of independence. I would like to request to hon. Agriculture Minister whether he will constitute a parliamentary committee in this regard? That committee should go into subject of providing grants to different parts of the countries, is it true that where the Green Revolution has left its impression, fertility is decreasing there? We have to think over it while talking about second green revolution in the beginning this century.

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

If fertility is ending, then why is it happening? We have three-four type of new challenges in front of us that how exactly our agriculture should be? Our agriculture is divided into three parts. Few people stress on conventional farming organic farming. Some stresses on chemical farming and few adopt the middle path. We have doubt because there has been talk about genetic verification and FTA. I will not blame Sharad Pawar for the same but generally public blame the Government. They people came to power by raising a slogan. I would like to say that this Government has inherent contradictions because country's Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Commerce Minister say one thing same party's Planning Commission head says another thing, whereas their party President says third thing. Why such thing was done by giving letter to one's own Government. What kind of mockery are they doing? I would say that this Government is of inherent contradictions. What will be its effect on agriculture of FTA? I mean to say that it will have indirect impact on agriculture.

I will conclude with one thing in the end. In our country corporate farming is increasing. I have heard that we are moving in few states and there is also talk about it in my state where corporate farming Bill has been passed recently. A condition has been laid there that a national horticulture mission will be started there, if you implement Corporate Farming Bill. I would like to know that what is this corporate farming? Recently Devendra Prasad Yadav mentioned about corporate farming, but what will be its selling price. As in Orissa you pay minimum support price of nearly rupees 550 for paddy. If in the name of corporate farming any new agency say that for a years time we will pay rupees 500, then what will happen to your minimum support price? There are many such facilities today like FDI, GM, FTA or Corporate farming.

All these new types of challenges are creeping in, today whole world has eye on India's agricultural market. Considering that you assured House two months back that we will give more importance to this subject and will bring new thing to front. We hope that considering importance of this discussion, you will constitute white paper or Joint Parliamentary Committee, which will given significant solution to this country's basic problem. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank. Firstly, I thank Ramji Lal Suman for bringing this important subject to the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has recently come afresh from abroad.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: He is afresh, that's why he has brought good topic. This is our good luck that you are sitting in the chair and our Minister is also the son of a farmer.

What are the reasons behind suicides of farmers, I would request from all senior Members that in place of pinpointing the same, we should come out with suggestions as Mr. Ajnala suggested that we should look for the ways to sort out the problem. Because if we do pin-pointing then few Members here will say that Government is responsible. I would like to say that these suicides have not been taking place for the last two years but these suicides are taking place for many years. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Incidents of suicides have increased in Andhra Pradesh since this Government has come into power. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Suicides have increased and if I go into the root cause of suicides that until we improve economic conditions of farmers this situation is not going to change. You name any state. If I say that when this country had NDA's Government and NDA Government waived off thousands and crores of rupees of loan of businessmen, but what did they gave to farmers, then it will hurt you badly. When farmer of this country was dying and Centre had NDA's Government, Haryana State had Bhartiya Janata Party and Lok Dal's Government and farmers were being killed by firing than what were NDA people doing? I will not enter into that discussion here. I would say that whether there is any party's Government but it's a bad thing if farmers are committing suicides. Hence, I would request from all the hon'ble Members that if we wish to talk in favour of farmers and serve farmers then we will need to lift ourselves above party politics. I would like to give 5-7 suggestions to Hon'ble Minister in this regard. First of all I will request all Members sitting in front of me that they will have to think above party politics. Here interest on loan amount of farmers was discussed. Why here farmer is getting weaker day by day? Farmers do not get even cost price for his crop. Prices are not increased on the basis of his input cost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the tenure of NDA Government farmers were not getting loan even at

1 percent, but I am thankful to UPA Government that they have brought interest rate to 7 percent. Rather I would suggest that for increasing production farmers should get pesticides, tractor, electricity or irrigation free of cost. Until they get facility of canal water, electricity, till then condition of farmers can not improve. Hence it is necessary that to increase production of crops, the rates of the products produced by the farmers should be increased. An arrangement of good seeds should be made for them; pesticides should be arranged for them. I would say that farmers should be given subsidy on fertilizers. The most important matter is regarding irrigation. Now, Mr. Sangwan is sitting here. He was saying.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am to attend a meeting at 7.30 PM. If Members of the House agree then I would request Shri Shrinivas Patil, who is a senior Member and had been in the panel to occupy the Chair.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (*Puri*): Sir, let this be deferred to some other date. We all will have to attend that meeting.

[*Translation*]

Minister will reply as per his convenience.

[*English*]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, we are hard pressed for time. There is so much of business. Let us complete this discussion today.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I still have a list of 20 Members who have to speak. It seems that this discussion will not be concluded today.

[*English*]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: If they speak for five minutes each, it can be completed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has his turn tomorrow in Rajya Sabha. As it is an important discussion, its reply can be given tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

[*English*]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: The debate may be completed today.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jai Prakash you kindly continue discussion.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (*Chail*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister should reply the discussion today only because it is an important matter. This problem is related to farmers. We people do have problems at times. You given opportunity to everyone.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue is related to the farmers, so it won't be right to adjourn the House. They should get justice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jai Prakash ji, Please continue your speech. The House will be adjourned thereafter.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as issue of increasing production is concerned, irrigation is one of the important components. There are three modes of irrigation—canals and dams, tubewells and irrigation through natural source, i.e. harvested rainwater.

19.34 hrs.

[*SHRI SHRINIVAS DADASAHEB PATIL in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the previous Government which ruled over the country for last six years allocated minimum funds for irrigation out of the total budgetary outlay for agriculture. Since the time when UPA Government took over, it has decided to increase the allocation for irrigation. I am grateful to UPA Government for it. I would like to give my suggestion to hon. Minister of Agriculture that dam may be constructed on Yamuna so that the States of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh could be benefited out of it and the farmers of Haryana could get water for irrigation, besides resulting in optimum utilization of Yamuna water which is lying unused for last 6-7 months. This matter assumes even more importance in view of the fact that SYL dispute among Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan is not settled yet.

Sir, the prices of diesel are constantly rising. If farmers use diesel for tubewells, the cost would be relatively

[Shri Jai Prakash]

higher. I would like to submit that the centre should provide subsidized electricity in those areas where the farmers use tubewells for irrigation and, the States where tubewells are in larger number should be provided with power through NTPC. By this way, agricultural production would be automatically increased. If the Centre provide power this way in Haryana, we can irrigate those areas by tubewells where water scarcity prevails. Now, the Government should provide subsidy on fertilizers also.

Another important factor is the prices of commodities. Paddy crop is being sown. The Government should fix price for it instantly so that the farmers could feel enthusiasm and pay attention on their crops. The major crop of Haryana is sugarcane. The Chief Minister of Haryana fixed the highest price for sugarcane in the State compared to the rest of the country, consequent upon which sugarcane is going to be flourished there. Sugarcane is taken a cash crop. When the NDA government was in power, the sugarcane production came down to a very low level, the farmers there ruined their own sugarcane crops due to faulty policies of the Chief Minister, as a result, the sugar mills were closed down. We have 40 percent more sowing of sugarcane after Congress Party took over in Haryana.

It is being talked about why the wheat is being procured from abroad. Mustard and vegetables' season also start alongwith wheat. Drought, flood and hailstorm are covered under Crop Insurance Scheme as natural calamities, but snowfall is not covered while it also mars the crops, so I request that it should also be covered under natural calamities. Wherever and whenever a natural calamity strikes, the State Governments should immediately be asked to provide relief to the farmers then and there. It should not happen that a standing crop died and nobody visited the area for six months.

One of my colleagues was just mentioning the issue of debt recovery from the farmers. The government of Haryana has paved the way for the country in this field that the Government of Haryana does not arrest the farmer even if he does not repay debt of co-operative society. ...*(Interruptions)* does not lathi-charge. It maybe happening in Uttar Pradesh. Whosoever lathi-charges farmers, never come back in the power and NDA is aware of it. We do not arrest any farmers. We say that pay back the loan so that co-operatives could lend you more. Many of my colleagues were saying that lending is of no use. I would like to submit that the way NDA, being a party of traders and capitalists, waived off the thousand crores of rupees

of business tycoons and when the issue was discussed in the House and their names were asked, they refused to disclose. The UPA Government of ours is a Government of the farmers and workers. I would like to say to the Minister of Agriculture that the day farming turns into profitable business, lakhs of unemployed youths will get employment in the country. So, the loans of the farmers should be waived off. Thereafter, the farmers would grow their crops afresh and would get profit, this way, they would become financially sound. I submit that Sharad Pawar ji would definitely get it done. The farmers are under the heavy burden of debt and bound to commit suicide. The UPA Government can waive off the loans in tune of the previous Government which waived off the loans of the industrialists. In Haryana, electricity bills of Rs. 10 crore were waived off once. Today, the financial condition of the farmers of Haryana is the most sound in the country. If the loans are waived off, the problem will automatically be solved.

(English)

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. There are many reasons for the farmers committing suicide, and a number of hon. Members have dealt with the reasons for the farmers committing suicide. Actually, it is a very grave situation, and one has to give a very serious thought over it and take remedial steps.

Sir, the farmers are facing drought, floods and other calamities in one or the other part of the country every year, and this forces these farmers to commit suicide. The death-toll is mounting due to various factors including exploitation by private moneylenders, high-cost of borrowings, failure to increase institutional credit-flow, non-remunerative prices—it is a very important factor for agriculture products—and spurious pesticides, spurious seeds and spurious fertilisers. The spurious stuff is purchased from the dealers, and it results in the crops getting damaged. The cumulative effect of all the above mentioned problems would lead to a large number of farmers committing suicide.

As per the statistics available with us, it is stated that about 30,000 farmers have committed suicide in the previous years. What are we doing to tackle all these natural calamities and to help the farmers, so that they do not commit suicide? At the time of droughts and cyclones we are just giving them lip-sympathy. They face

losses worth thousands of crores of rupees, but the compensation given to the farmers is very meagre. Therefore, they are not able to withstand the situation.

As regards remunerative prices, we have been discussing the issue of plight of farmers ever since the country attained Independence. I have been observing for the past 10 years or so that the issue of farmers is being discussed in every Session of the Parliament, but their status remains the same. There is no change in the status of the farmers whether they belong to Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra or Karnataka. We are only discussing about them, and getting away without taking any concrete actions.

As regards the Minimum Support Price (MSP), it is a good thing. But what are we doing here? The MSP is being announced at the fag end of the season when the farmers, out of frustration, sell their produce to the private entrepreneurs at throwaway prices. I would like to add here that the Purchasing Centres are also not started — when the farmers are in grief—in those places either with the help of the FCI or the Civil Supplies Department of the concerned States. These Purchasing Centres are started only after the farmers demand for it by resorting to rampage or agitation. The Purchasing Centres are only started as an eyewash for a couple of days. Furthermore, there are many restrictions put by the officials regarding the quality of agricultural produce, etc., and it is causing a lot of trouble to the farmers. Therefore, my request would be that the MSP should be announced early, and the Purchasing Centres should be started at the beginning of every agriculture season.

As soon as the agriculture produce starts coming into the market, the prices for the same get slashed to such an extent that the farmers would not be in a position to even recover the price incurred by them for growing the crops. It would be very low at that time. But before the crops and the agriculture produce starts arriving in the market, the prices for the same would be sky-high, and it would not be within the reach of the common man. Once the crops start coming into the market, suddenly the prices get slashed. This is putting the farmers through a lot of inconvenience and losses.

As regards spurious drugs, spurious pesticides, spurious seeds and spurious fertilisers, it has become rampant. We do not have any stringent laws to curb them. Even though we have some laws for it, yet the officials concerned are not initiating any action against

the people who indulge in such practices. This is causing a lot of problems to the farmers. Ultimately, the farmers are unable to grow their crops as a result of using these things, and they try to commit suicide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, I have not even taken two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken five minutes, so please conclude now.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, we have Agricultural Market Committees. We are supposed to provide them with good seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to the farmers. Even after 59 years of Independence, we have miserably failed in doing this.

Coming to the financial institutions, the biggest problem is here, it is estimated that only 15 to 20 per cent of the financial needs of farmers are met by the governmental institutions. In case of the remaining 75 to 80 per cent, farmers have to depend upon the moneylenders. The private moneylenders are not bothered about the fact that the crops have failed. They want their debts to be repaid to them. Thus, the farmers are falling into a debt trap because of various reasons, including non-remunerative prices. That is why, my request to the Government is that the loan facility system should be made easy, so that every farmer could get loans.

Coming to disparities and discrimination, as some of our hon. Members felt...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now because there are ten more Members who are yet to speak.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I will make some suggestions and then complete my speech.

There is discrimination against farmers in terms of extending loan facilities. When the corporate sector is being given loans at a lower rate of interest, why are the farmers not being given that same facility? The farming community is the backbone of our country. Very high interest rates are being charged from them, whereas the corporate sector is being given loans at lower interest rates.

Coming to the subject proper, that is, suicides by farmers, no State is spared in this respect. All the States

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

have reported suicides by farmers, and it is more so in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan. Our hon. Agriculture Minister, when he came to Andhra Pradesh, he himself felt that the incidences of farmers suicides are very high in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I will make some suggestions and then conclude my speech.

The incidence of suicides is higher in Andhra Pradesh. It is because the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has miserably failed to control the situation leading to suicides. In two years of their rule, 3,115 farmers committed suicides. The Government has set up a helpline, but it has become a helpless line. They have put a moratorium on private lending without providing for any alternative funding to farmers. This moratorium sounded a death knell for the farmers.

We are meeting only 15 to 20 per cent of the credit needs. Under these circumstances, I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister that steps should be taken to free the farmers from the clutches of the private moneylenders, and loans should be provided through the governmental institutions.

The burden of the tenant farmers is a very serious problem. They do not have any right on the land and they cannot get any loan from the governmental institutions. These tenants have to pay large sums to their landlords towards rent, and they are not getting any benefit from the governmental institutions. I would request the hon. Minister to see that they also get loans from the governmental institutions.

Coming to RBI rules, since small and marginal farmers are the most affected, the rules should be relaxed in such a way that they can derive some benefit.

Finally, to stop these suicidal deaths, whether it is in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan or in other States, the farmers should get good seeds, fertilizers and they should also get remunerative prices. Minimum Support Price should be announced at the beginning of the season and purchasing centres have to be started early to purchase the entire produce. This alone can stop these suicides.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very serious problem of our farmers. More than 70 per cent of our people are farmers and agriculture is the backbone of Indian Economy. Unfortunately this backbone is being broken at a very fast rate. Between 1997 and 2006 a total number of more than 40,000 farmers have Committed Suicide. These days weavers all over the country are also Committing Suicides. They take loans and ultimately land in debt trap. They have to spend on several items like agricultural equipment, fertilizers, water, electricity, seeds etc. They fail to recover even half of this amount which they spend on input. Middleman also play a vital role to cheat the farmers. Proper marketing facilities are not there for agricultural produce. They fail to pay the loan instalments and bank recovery team start their recovery procedure. The property like house, cows, land, etc. of the farmers are put for auction. Farmer is left with no other option but to Commit Suicide. The number of farmer's suicide is increasing every day and it is nothing but genocide.

Recently, the Union Government decided to import 35 lakh tonnes of wheat. The policy of World Trade Organization which has been forced on our farmers is also responsible for this pathetic situation of our farmers. Every six months the centre announces Dearness Allowance for the Government employees. Many of them get bonus and other financial benefits. Employees of Industries are also getting these benefits. What do the farmers get? In fact, very recently Smt. Sonlaji had warned our Prime Minister not to make Free Trade Agreements in a hurry. A recent report shows the trends of growing dependence of farmers in the Suicide belt on hybrid and genitically modified seeds which are very costly and cannot be saved.

It also refers to the arowing attempts to privatise Seed supply and the emergence of multinational monopolies. The farmers are pressing their demand, for a moratorium on Bt Cotton. The farmers have organized a 'BIJA YATRA' through Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh where suicides are occuring in large numbers. This Yatra will create awareness among farmers of GM crops, corporate farming and Seed monopolies. Farmers will also be trained in low-cost ecological organic farming. Indegenous Seeds will be distributed as "Seeds of hope".

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Farmer is getting just Rs. 850 for one tonne Sugar Cane. This is no where near the cost price of Sugar Cane production. Added to this agony the payment is always delayed, what can the farmer do? How much is he getting for his coconut? It is less than Rs. 10 per coconut.

Now let me cite the example of my own family story. My brother who is a farmer took a loan of Rs. 87,000 from Indian Bank, Chamarajanagar Branch. He returned Rs. 40,000 and the balance was only Rs. 47,000. Over a period of time this amount and its interest swelled. The Bank issued a notice to my brother to pay a total amount of Rs. 2,14,000. Is this reason not sufficient to commit suicide? Of course, in this case I intervened and Convinced the Bank officials not to be so harsh to farmer. Finally, I paid one lakh rupees on behalf of my brother and closed the account. How can the small and poor farmers of this country can survive under these circumstances?

Lack of marketing facility is dragging the farmer to Commit Suicide. Middle man will swallow the lion's share of the money. Farmers are compelled to dispose their agricultural produce as there are no Storage facility . We produce very fine quality of jaggery. But we are forced to sell this jaggery as early as possible as we have no facility to store it for some period.

Water is the God given gift to man. This water is filled in bottles and each bottle containing one litre of water is sold at the rate Rs.10 and above people do not hesitate to pay Rs. 16 to 20 for a bottle of water. Unfortunately and Strangley the farmers are not getting even eight rupees for one litre of milk. He sweats and works hard, takes proper care of the cows and carries the milk to the town. What is the return? Water is costlier than milk? What an Irony? That is why Suicides are increasing. It is high time for the State Governments and the Union Government to awake. Let them procure milk from farmers by paying at least Rs. 25 per litre. This measure is one of the ways to cheek the farmer's suicide. At the same time Storage facility should be provided to the farmers. There should be at least one cold storage in each district of the country.

I would like to give one more example to enunciate the pathetic condition of farmer in our country. Mr. V. R. N. Murthy and Mrs. V. Sarasavani Murthy took a loan from Vysya Bank Jayanagar Branch, Bangalore under this scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and post Harvest management" of Horticulture crop. This scheme has the Subsidy facility under NHB scheme. The loan has been taken over by Bank of India,

Bangalore with an attractive offer of lower rate of interest. Now, the Ministry of Agriculture says I quote 'we regret to inform you that your proposal cannot be considered for sanction of subsidy as in your case take over loan has been done after completion of the project'. Why subsidy should not be given to this farmer? Does the department of agriculture, Government of India want to contribute to farmers suicide? The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is here. I request him to look into this case and do justice to these farmers, Mr. Murthy and Mrs. Sarasavani Murthy. Who are contributing their might in the field of horticulture.

Permanent solution for this grave problem of farmers is to link the rivers in the country. Farmers also should be given free electricity. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the first day of his assuming power announced free supply of electricity to all farmers of Tamil Nadu. Electricity rates also vary from State to State? What an Irony? I urge upon the Union Government to evolve some strategy such that the farmers of India should get free electricity. Subsidy on fertilizers, seeds, pesticides should continue. Support price is another important aspect which can help our country to Stop farmers suicides. Farming equipment like tractors and others should be available to farmers at reasonable rates.

Turmeric, Tomato. Onion are the most neglected agricultural commodities in our country. The centre and the States should open their eyes and save the producers of these commodities by providing them support price.

Small farmers and farmers belonging to ST and SC should get agricultural equipment at a very low rate. Recently the Deputy Chief Minister of Kamataka has announced bank loans for farmers at the rate of 4 per cent. My request to the Centre and the States to provide loan to small farmers and ST and SC farmers at the rate of only one per cent and nothing more than this. Otherwise, they will not survive and continue to commit suicide. If the Centre is very keen to save farmers of this country then they have to take these bold decisions. All the loans of farmers who have Committed suicide should be waived completely. All other precautions must be taken by the Union Government and the State Governments to Stop the suicides of farmers. Progressive steps must be taken to improve the living condition of farmers. That is why our former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri was always mentioning.

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan.

Sir, I thank for allowing me to speak on this important issue of farmers suicide and with these words I conclude my Speech.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate Ramji Lal Suman. The discussion held in the House is proved to be meaningful to some extent, because since the day I am elected and came to the House, I asked a number of questions regarding farmers of Punjab, every time Government replied that no farmer has committed suicide in Punjab as no such report has been received from the State Government, so the benefits other States are getting are not meant for Punjab. Today, all the speakers have mentioned the plight of the farmers of Punjab in some way or the other.

I would like to present a true story brought into light by the responsible persons of print media and electronic media. It is the tale of village Panka, Balluwada constituency of Abohar in Punjab. It is a painful tale and many a villages of Punjab are in the same condition. In this village, out of 3300 acres of land, 3200 acres of land has been lying mortgaged either to banks, or to co-operatives or to commission agents. Some 40 farmers have committed suicide and every household has more than two widows.

20.00 hrs.

Such is the picture of the village. Education of the children, distributing medicines to the patients.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten more hon. Members have to speak now. Four hon. Members are sitting here and others are outside. If you agree, the House can be extended to 9.00.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): All right.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, reply of the Minister is also covered in the time to 9.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If hon. members do not turn out, it will come to close early.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Chairman, whether speaking members are absent, but the members should be present in the House.

More than 40 farmers have committed suicide and every household has more than two widows. Other

problems also arise when a farmer commits suicide. Then, the lady of the house has to run the life and when she takes responsibility, she cannot give time to her children, she cannot teach them. The farmers who have not committed suicide are spoiling their lives by taking drugs and alcohol. I don't think we would find any such example in the history as we have of Punjab. I was saying, a farmer of village Nirala in Kapurthala district kept on sitting in the market for full one week to sell off his produce.

When his crop was not sold for entire one week then he committed suicide. The reason behind this was that he was worried that he has been sitting in the Mandi for last one week and his children were bringing food for him everyday. He thought that his crop was not selling and he is sitting idle there only consuming food. If we go through the entire data we find that as per the survey, farmers of Punjab are burdened under maximum debt. A large number of farmers in Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide but they were not as much under debt as the farmers of Punjab are. I would like to request hon. Minister that I do not want to go into figures, the figures are with the Government, but I would certainly like to say that we must identify the reasons due to which the farmers commit suicide and help the farmers to overcome this suicidal trend.

The farmer had brought green revolution but now articles are being published in newspapers saying—green revolution turns red revolution. The reason for this is that the farmers who use to grow green crops are now killing themselves and are committing suicides. We must express our concern towards this so that it does not become a red revolution. What does the farmer need? He only wants seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, electricity and water. But if we see these things collectively we find that the farmers neither get these things on time nor do they get good quality of the same. When the farmers receive fake seeds, pesticides and fertilizers, then what are the farmers supposed to grow. They do not get full price for their crop. The farmers are not able to meet the difference between the expenditure incurred on and the price received for the crop therefore, such a policy should be formulated under which the farmers are able to receive full price for their crop.

Without taking much time, I would only like to give two or three suggestions. Firstly, the income of farmers should be insured. If the income of farmers is insured

then they would honestly grow their crops and would not have to worry about floods or drought, as it would not effect their income at all.

Secondly, although it is difficult, but for once a decision must be taken to free the farmers of all their debts. Thirdly, the farmers should get good marketing. I would give an example here. This is an incident of my constituency which became quite a topic for discussion. A farmer went to a Mandi to sell his cabbage. He had 40 kgs. of cabbage. He was offered a price of Rs. 16 for his produce. He was almost in tears. Then suddenly a cold storage manager passed through that place. He asked the farmer what was the matter, the farmer told him that he has been offered only Rs. 16 for his cabbage. The farmer told that he has brought his produce from a far-off village and he must have incurred a similar amount on the fuel itself for transporting his vegetable. The manager told him not to worry and put his vegetable into his cold storage. He would sell the cabbage when it will fetch good market price. After a month and a half that cabbage was sold at a price of Rs. 40 per kg. The 40 kg cabbage which was to sell for Rs.16 was ultimately sold for Rs. 1600. If the farmers are trained properly as per the market then they can fetch good price for their produce. Hon. Minister, I would like to tell one more thing to you, and this has come into picture in some or the other manner but not very clearly. A number of banks, co-operative societies, Arhatiyas charge more than permitted rate of interest, from the farmers. If any such case comes to light where more than permitted rate of interest is charged from the farmers then strict legal action should be taken against such person. It should be a cognizable offence so that the Arhatiyas are not able to exploit the farmers. In Punjab farmers have taken 55 per cent loan from Arhatiyas and there are nearly 25 thousand commission agents in Punjab. It should be made a cognizable offence if they charge more than permitted rate of interest from the farmers. With this, we can help in resolving the problems of the farmers to a large extent. I would request him that the farmer who is the provider of food (anndata) should not become a beggar. We should formulate a policy at the national level to help the farmer remain food provider (anndata), so that he grows his crops honestly and receives appropriate price for the same. I would like to request hon. Minister that the Government have also begin its action to exploit the farmers of Punjab. A decision has been taken to sell of the farmers land on low prices to Trident Group and Reliance under which the land worth Rs. 1200 crore is to be sold for mere Rs. 200 crores. We would have to save the farmers from

these *land mafia's* also. Alongwith this the Government of Punjab must also be instructed that it should not ravage the farmers like this. I hope that while keeping this in view he would take a decision to save the farmers of Punjab.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicheery): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for the opportunity afforded to speak on this very unfortunate issue facing the Indian farmers. We have been told that agriculture is the critical sector of Indian economic development and we have concentrated all our efforts to promote the growth of agriculture by all means. Thanks to all our efforts in the last ten Five Year Plans, Indian agriculture has registered rapid strides in various activities. We have produced the first Green Revolution and now we are in the process of embarking upon the second Green Revolution. But very unfortunately and very paradoxically today we find the growing incidence of suicides by farmers which only indicates that the growth in agriculture has not percolated the benefits of growth to the common farmers. That also subscribes to the view normally expressed by economists that India is growing but Indians are not growing. We contemplate that the growth of Indian economy should be eight, nine or even ten per cent. But unless the benefits of this growth percolates down to the Indian farmers and Indian labourers, then the growth process that we are embarking upon becomes meaningless.

We will have to look at this problem of suicides by farmers in a more deeper manner so that growth becomes meaningful to the people who are working for agricultural growth. After all, the farmers are contributing to the growth of agriculture and if they are affected, if they cannot sustain their livelihood and if they live below subsistence level, then all our efforts become meaningless. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to undertake a nation-wide extensive study of Indian agriculture by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and come out with a White Paper on these aspects. It is true that enough has been said by all the hon. Members in this House as to how they look at the problem of suicide by farmers. But there is an objective view of knowing what things have happened and how things are moving in the rural sector.

Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to come out with a White Paper on suicides committed by farmers in Indian agriculture. All our experiences indicate that there

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

is something structurally wrong in the Indian agriculture. That is why, it is not bringing any fruits. We have seen the agricultural growth in both developing and developed countries. But wherever agricultural growth has occurred, the people seem to be, if not happy, a little happy and are not frustrated. Here, it is the frustration of the farmers that has led to their suicide.

Our farmers are self-respecting farmers. Our farmers cannot subject themselves to various kinds of humiliation and other sufferings. Therefore, we have to look at their problem psychologically and find out why this is happening.

From the Government side, I feel that the objective of promoting four per cent agricultural growth remains a distant dream. In spite of our increasing investment in the last four to five years, there has not been adequate growth in agriculture. It may be because Indian agriculture still happens to be a gamble in the monsoon. Indian agriculture is not able to provide sustained level of inputs to the farmers at an affordable cost.

One of the reasons why people feel that they have to commit suicide is that there is always a gap between the cost of production and the prices they get. It makes agriculture more and more unremunerative and the farmers get low returns for whatever they sell in the market. And the prices are high for whatever they buy from the market. Economists say that there are adverse terms of trade between agricultural products and industrial products. The industrial products which are purchased by them are at a high cost but the agricultural products which they sell are at a lower price leaving a very huge gap between revenue and expenditure. That is why, the income of the farmers is very low. When you look at the composition of the farmers who commit suicide, as far as my knowledge goes, you will find that these farmers are in rain-fed areas. When you look at the farmers who are committing suicide in the rain-fed areas, they are the farmers belonging to the most backward communities and the SCs. You may find that there is a peculiar problem there.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take innovative measures. It is not that we are lacking in measures. Perhaps, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the largest number of policy measures to bring prosperity to the farmers of our country. But all these measures have not yielded fruits. It has resulted in the suicide of farmers. In those days, we used to say

that farmers are born in debt, they live in debt and die in debt. But today, we will have to change the slogan. It should be said that Indian farmers are born in problems, they live in problems and die in problems.

One of the important problems is about the availability of credit to farmers. Our Finance Minister is on record to say that we have given Rs. 1.74 lakh crore of credit. I was asking him as to who benefits out of this credit. What is the distribution effect of this credit that has been given? How many small farmers, how many marginal farmers, how many medium farmers and how many large farmers get it? There is no data available on that with the Reserve Bank or NABARD. Perhaps, I get an impression that credit goes to the large farmers first followed by medium farmers and small farmers. And the marginal farmers who eke out a living and who lead a hand-to-mouth existence do not get timely, cheap and sufficient credit. They do get credit at a time when they do not require it and when they want it, they do not get it. Or they get untimely and inadequate credit. If a farmer requires Rs. 10,000 for meeting his expenses of cultivation, you give him only Rs. 5000. For the remaining Rs. 5000, he goes to the moneylenders and pays them exorbitant rate of interest. Therefore, the distribution impact of credit should also be studied closely.

The Vaidyanathan Committee has come to certain important conclusions. Therefore, I would sum up by saying that the Government has done enough but still does not understand the frustration that is faced by the farmers. They should evolve a package of measures based on scientific study of this phenomenon of suicide committed by farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Ramji Lal Suman ji for initiating debate regarding the suicides being committed by the farmers in various parts of the country. I would like to mention in clear terms as to why a person commits suicide? He commits suicide when he is not able to provide for the living of his family and considers himself useless in the society. I believe there would be nothing more shameful than this for the Government that the farmers are faced to commit suicide. A number of discussions have been held in this House regarding farmers and after all those discussions, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the fact that so far we have not been able to

formulate any concrete policy for the welfare of farmers and due to which the number of such discussions has never been reduced. The example is before you. Our attention is never drawn towards the question of wheat produced in our country. I would request hon. Minister of Agriculture to see as to how much wheat is produced in our country and why the farmers do not want to sell their wheat to the Government. We are about to import 20 to 50 lakh metric tones of wheat at the rate of rupees ten thousand per metric tone but we cannot purchase the farmers, wheat at the rate of Rs. 9 thousand per metric tone. This is a clear example that we should purchase wheat from our own farmers at the rate of Rs. 9 thousand per metric tone. The production may have been less in the country but it is not so less that we should come on the verge of starvation and are led to import wheat from other countries. Probably the Government may want to import wheat from outside so that the market price does not rise and rather the prices should come down. There is no objection if these rates come down. If the Government imports from five to fifty lakh metric tones of wheat from outside then it would become useless after two years, as it would become unfit for consumption. If we import wheat from outside instead of purchasing it from our farmers, then we may have to dispose off that wheat after some time into the sea. The wheat we are importing now is entirely going to be thrown into the sea after a certain time. You are purchasing wheat at the rate of Rs. 10 thousand per metric tone from the farmers outside instead of purchasing it from the farmers at the rate of the Rs. 9 thousand per metric tone, how is it wise. We must declare today itself the rate of Rs. 9 thousand per metric tone for our farmers.

Today, there is a large requirement of irrigation in agriculture and we have spent crores of rupees on this. Our projects are running since last 50 years but till today we have not been able to provide water for irrigation to the farmers. We must expeditiously complete all the schemes.

By boring wells the farmer gets water for his fields. But, he is supplied electricity for four hours only. But, on the other hand those industries which resort to power theft in the name of production, are supplied electricity for 24 hours. What type of justice we are going to do. My suggestion is that the farmer should get electricity for 16 hours at cheaper rates. Besides, the minimum support price should be fixed keeping in view the market price so that the farmers do not suffer loss and if there is any loss to the farmer, the government should compensate it.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Sumanji who has raised the issue of the country's most distressed class i.e. the farmer. When we were in college, we read about Indian farmer that

[English]

Indian farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt.

[Translation]

Thereafter, approximately 40 years have elapsed, but the situation remains the same. Even after 59 years of independence, there is no any improvement in their condition. As a result of it, today the farmers are committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and some other states of the country. Farmer is like Abhimanyu around whom people are standing to kill him. Such type of situation is prevailing. It is our responsibility to bail him out from these circumstances. We hold discussion on this topic every year. Farmer is suffering many ways. One suffering is caused by sky e.g. hailstorm, frost, drought, flood—all these are natural calamities due to which the entire crop of the farmer gets damaged and we are not able to compensate the loss caused to them. We have taken no measures for it. We introduced Crop Insurance Scheme and has witnessed hail storm this year. We went to the District Collector there. We told that the farmers should be compensated under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Thereupon, the District Collector said that only 10 villages have witnessed the hailstorm, the entire tehsil did not witness the hailstorm. When the entire tehsil witness hailstorm, then they will give compensation. His logic is totally wrong. What I mean to say is that you can provide assistance to the farmer, by considering field as a unit under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Therefore, there is a need to bring about improvement in the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Many crops such as Soyabean and Arhar are not notified under the Crop Insurance Scheme. In our area Soyabean crop was damaged and Arhar crop was also damaged due to frost. We went to the collector, he told that since Soyabean Crop has been damaged, therefore, no compensation/assistance would be provided for Arhar crop. My submission is that the crop should be insured and if the crop gets damaged the farmers should be compensated. It is necessary to deal with natural calamities. The government should provide seed, manure and all facilities for irrigation to the farmer and in case his crop gets damaged due to hailstorm, flood, etc. then efforts should also be made to compensate him. I am

[Dr. Ram Krishna Kusmaria]

happy that you are considering to give remunerative price to the farmer. If the farmer gets remunerative price for his crop, if he gets electricity, and water at the right time, then he will become prosperous.

I would like to say one more thing also. Law causes sufferings to farmer. Due to it, the farmer, remain entrapped in the clutches of law and as a result he has to suffer a lot.

Third and the biggest suffering is caused by WTO. It is causing problem in providing subsidy to the farmers. There has been difficulty in import recently. Owing to it, there have been problems in providing subsidy to the farmers. Fertilizer companies are providing subsidy to them. They do not manufacture fertilizers to the extent they are supposed to manufacture. They usurp the entire subsidy and the farmers get nothing. These are the difficulties being faced by the farmers. They should get loan at cheaper rates. In Swaminathan Committee's report it is recommended that the farmers should get loan at four percent rate of interest. One of our colleague has said good thing that once waive off the loan of the farmers, then all their problems, which compel them to commit suicide, will get solved. Being debt ridden, he does not have any respect in the society. You should waive off his loan. The hon. Minister himself is a farmer. There is no forum of farmers in the Lok Sabha. My submission is that a forum of farmers should be constituted in the Lok Sabha so that the problems of the farmers could be solved by rising above the party politics. You must implement it. It would benefit the farmers.

Every time we talk about diversification of crops. Medicinal crop could be grown and even we can opt horticulture and floriculture. You must help the farmers by providing subsidy to them. If you provide subsidy to the farmers for growing medicinal plants, flowers and fruits then they will follow diversification of crops alongwith their major crop. It will promote cow-breeding. If the farmers get organic manure then you will get an opportunity of reclaiming the land which is becoming barren due to repeated and frequent utilization of the fertilizers.

With these words I would like to conclude that the government should go ahead with inter-linking of rivers programme so as to deal with both flood and drought. It will also provide relief to the farmers. I would like to convey my thanks the government that it has sanctioned the scheme of inter-linking of Ken and Betia rivers of Khajuraho region. The survey work has been started. You must go ahead with this work which is in the interest of the country.

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 on farmers' suicides. I think that it is the failure of our policy framework. It is because farmers are the backbone of our country's economy as we praise them. But in practice it is a bitter thing. As Andhra Pradesh has larger number of farmers, so almost one-third of the country's farmers suicides are from Andhra Pradesh only. If we go into the details from 1994, the first suicide occurred in Warrangal district of a cotton farmer. Then, in the next six years, about 3000 farmers committed suicide. In 2002-03, around 3000 farmers committed suicide. In 2003-04, it was 2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not give statistics. Kindly suggest something. Why are you giving the statistics?

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: I am quoting these figures because during 1994, NDA policy was there, and after that Congress came. The deaths have increased but not reduced. It is because it is not the failure of the party that is ruling but it is because the Government's attitude and the policy framework is failing here and that policy is that the Government shifted from its supportive role. Previously, it used to support the agriculture sector by providing irrigation facilities, by providing credit, etc.

But now-a-days, after economic reforms have been introduced, the entire system has changed and farmers are feeling helpless because banks are no more giving them credit support and they are left at the mercy of private money lenders. If a farmer takes a loan from the bank and if he is not able to repay it, the bank authorities take away even the household utensils from him. He is humiliated and so he runs to private money lenders for taking loan. Besides, whatever the State level banking committee decides is not implemented at the ground level and only one-third of the amount recommended is given to farmers.

Sir, I would like to submit that it is not just the Agriculture Ministry that is responsible for farmers committing suicides in our country, but also the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Chemicals and Fertilisers and Water Resources are all responsible for this. So, to rescue the farmers from debt trap, the Government has to reduce the rate of interest of loans provided to farmers.

Then, in our State, the number of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies has drastically reduced. So, the minimum level of credit which the farmers used to get has reduced and that is why they are forced to commit suicide. Therefore, this issue needs a larger discussion and the Government should go back to its previous policy of supporting the farmers. Now, the Government acts as a facilitator. Instead of acting as a facilitator, the Government should play a more active and supportive role.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the anti-farmers policy of the present Government is becoming clear before the public. The farmers are committing suicide in various states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and the maximum cases of suicides have been in Vidarbha region. Large numbers of farmers have committed suicide in my constituency, Yavatmal. Broadly speaking, agriculture has become expensive and less profitable. Moreover, marketing policy is also against the farmers. MNCs and middlemen are causing great loss to the farmers.

Sir, the ex-Chief Minister, Shri Yaswantrao G. Naik had said "shetkari Karkhanadar Jhala pahijet" means, the farmers should become factory owners. Under the leadership of same Naikji, hon. Sharad Pawarji won the election and became the Chief Minister. Today, Sharad Pawar is famous as a messiah of farmers. People often talk that Sharad Pawar himself had shought the Ministry of Agriculture. Suicide by farmers perturbs me a lot. I am hopeful that Shri Sharad Pawarji will definitely provide relief to the farmers. During elections, he had assured that he would fix the price of cotton, especially in Maharashtra @ Rs. 2700 per quintal, provide free electricity, waive of interest on loans. But, nothing of this kind has happened. That is why people of Maharashtra are a harassed lot.

Now, coming to the second point—I would like to make a mention of devastating flood that hit Maharashtra on 26 July. It destroyed the crops on river side, completely. Later on, all the M.P.s including you, met hon. Prime Minister in this regard. The hon. Prime Minister told us that the crop loss would be compensated on the lines of compensation provided to tsunami victims. Shri Sharad Pawar was not present on that day. The hon.

Prime Minister further stated that Shri Pawar ji is working on it. But, no rehabilitation work has been undertaken in Maharashtra.

I would like to raise another important issue that provision of funds was made for development of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra under Article 273 of constitution. But, now the funds meant for irrigation in Vidarbha region are being diverted to the Western Maharashtra. It may be one of the main reasons why farmers in Vidarbha commit suicide. My submission is that the Government should launch a new scheme similar to the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, which is doing very well in Maharashtra. The funds under proposed scheme should be used for constructing bore wells, Perhaps, Mr. Sharad Pawar ji may like to very much. My submission is that the loan of farmers should be written off. In addition to it, rate of interest on agri-loan should be lowered to four percent and power should be provided free of cost.

Secondly, Shri Sharad Pawar ji always say, that he is in favour of promotion of agro-products. But, during his last 2 years stint he has not done anything. We are anxious as to when he would take steps in this direction? I would like to tell one more thing to Pawar ji. As all of us are aware, Monopoly Act came into effect in Maharashtra in 1972. At that time the prices of cotton was Rs. 200 per quintal and the price of 10 gms gold was also Rs. 200. But now there is a wide gap in prices of these two commodities *i.e.* the price of per 10 gms gold is around Rs. ten thousand and the price of one quintal cotton is around Rs. 1700, 1800 or say Rs. 2000. The Government is always concerned about bread and clothing. Though it controls these things, yet, it passes the buck on farmers. In this scenario why do not the Government provide subsidy to the farmers? Everything is under the control of the Government; then why it does not let the prices of agri-products go up. I am sure Shri Sharad Pawar ji will definitely look into this aspect. The most important thing is availability of adequate water for irrigation, loans of farmers are written off, and they are supplied free power, then the farmers all over the country would call Sharad ji as their messiah....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If Sharad Pawar ji is such a nice man then why does not he join his party?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: No, not that. See, let it be any party but he is messiah of farmers. I am sure; he was present when the debate on suicide by farmers was

[Shri Haribhai Rathod]

going on in the House. Shri Manmohan Singh ji stated that Shri Pawar ji is working on a package for 35 districts. Pawarji was not present then. They had said that. But, so far there is no progress on it. So, he should see to it. In the end, I am grateful to you for having given me permission to speak.

*SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, at the outset I would express my gratitude to Shri Ramji Lal Suman ji for raising the issue of suicide by farmers in various parts of the country for discussion under the Rule 193 and expressing his concern over the plight of farmers producing food grains for more than a hundred million population. The farmer produces crops after tiding over enormous difficulties as so many risks are involved in his occupation. They are the ones contributing 22 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product and value equal to 11.2 per cent of Gross National Export contributing Rs. 39863 crores to the National Income and constituting 72 to 75 per cent of the rural populace whose means of livelihood is agriculture and who purchase costly seed, fertilizer, pesticides, diesel and work very hard. Although millions of Rupees might have been spent by the Government on schemes to ameliorate the condition of farmers from the time of independence till date yet his 60 per cent area is seismic prone, more than eight per cent consisting of four thousand crore hectares is in the grip of flood, 8000 km. of coastal land consisting of 8 per cent land is in cyclone prone area with disastrous natural calamity like tsunami and 68 per cent land is affected by drought and so he is compelled to commit suicide getting disappointed by the hazards of the occupation, and due to the non-remunerative prices for his produce, and also owing to contingencies of extreme environmental conditions.

Sir, this year the farmers of the country particularly of Uttar Pradesh are disappointed and on the verge of starvation owing to the strong westerly winds at the time of ripening of wheat crops. A farmer in Maharajganj district seeing less than two quintals of wheat harvest per acre after winnowing from harvester got so shocked that he died on the spot. This is the plight of farmers in the country. He is compelled to commit suicide owing to the attitude of the Union Government which instead of providing them water, fertilizer, seeds at subsidized rates, free electricity, subsidized pesticides, agricultural implements and storage of his yield necessary for the

crops, are fixing the price of crops even less than his production cost. Assessment of the cost of production of crops should be made and fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, diesel, etc. at subsidized rates should be made available. I express my gratitude while making a demand for making agricultural loan available at subsidized rates and remunerative price equal to the price of imported wheat for saving the yield from middlemen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sharad Pawar ji will reply. Please conclude.

SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE: There are not many Hon. Members in the House at the moment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the opinion of the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sumanji, what is your opinion?

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: If Sharad Pawar ji has time, I think he can reply tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Tomorrow, there is a problem. The same subject will be discussed the whole day in Rajya Sabha, so I will have to be present there. If it is all right, then I can reply on Monday.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: He can reply next week. We cannot decide the day right now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: All right, reply can be on Monday...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not fix the date and time of the reply but

[English]

whenever it is convenient.

It will be announced.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Sir, let us fix the date on Monday. What is the problem?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: But that cannot be decided right now.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We understand his problem. But he can fix it on Monday.

[Translation]

Sir, Monday should be fix for reply (*Interruptions*) Let's keep it for Monday...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The date will be decided later.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow on 18th May, 2006 at 11 a.m.

20.40 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 18, 2006/
Vaisakha 28, 1928 (Saka).*

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