

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 29, 2006/Agrahayana 8, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCES BY THE SPEAKER

- (I) **Re: Successful conduct of interception test using two live missiles**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is a matter of great pride that India's air defence capability achieved a new milestone on 27th November, 2006, when DRDO successfully carried a surface-to-surface missile interception over the waters of Bay of Bengal off the Orissa coast. This was the first ever interception test conducted by the DRDO using two live missiles. With this major breakthrough India has acquired anti-missile capability.

I think the House would join me in congratulating all the scientists and technicians associated with this feat.

11.01 hrs.

- (ii) **Re: Congratulating Ms. M.C. Mary Kom on winning gold medal in the Women's World Boxing Championship held in New Delhi**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have also great happiness, pleasure and pride to announce that one of our women boxers, Ms. Mary Kom, has won a gold medal in the recently held World Women's Boxing Championship held in New Delhi. This feat will be source of great inspiration and pride for the sportswomen of the country in particular and the sportsmen in general.

I think the House would join me in congratulating her on her accomplishment.

[English]

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour. Advanji, I will allow you after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whom to listen to, how the House will listen and how the business will be conducted. I am only saying that you can raise it after the Question Hour. Important questions are there in the list.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening; I cannot hear anything.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your matter, I do not know. I am only requesting you that after the Question Hour you may please raise any matter you like to subject to my permission.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening. I am very humbly requesting all the hon. Distinguished Members to please try to consider whether this is a debating body of Parliament of India. How can I listen to everybody in this manner? We have devoted one hour everyday for the Question Hour. There are so many important questions which the Members want to raise. I am only saying please do it after the Question Hour. Now, only 55 minutes are left, and nothing can happen within 55 minutes. I am appealing to you please let the House run. So many hon. Members of the Opposition have put questions. I have no issue except one issue, that is, I want the House to run properly so that people can see that we are doing good work. I have no personal issue except one issue that the House should run properly.

I am not disrespecting the Leader of Opposition. I have high regard for him, everybody should know that. I am sure he knows it too. This is not showing disrespect to the Leader of Opposition. I assure you that at 12 noon I will call you first. Just see what is happening. What more can I do tell me.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): This is not an ordinary thing. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the first time in the history of Parliament of India that a Minister has been taken direct to jail from here. ...*(Interruptions)* Nothing is being said by the Government in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Our Prime Minister had the courage to say that a convicted Minister should not stay in the Government and accepted the resignation instantly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems you do not need the Presiding Officer at all. There is no necessity of having the Speaker on the chair, if you all decide things for yourself. You are raising this problem and they are raising that problem but what can be done? I can only hope that the people of the country are watching us very closely and they will form their opinions.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the hon. Leader of Opposition at 12 noon. Please allow me to go to the Question Hour. Please take your seats. I earnestly appeal to you to please take your seats. In another 50 minutes I will allow you. Let us take up the Question Hour. There are important issues.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will not hear now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I have a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. I have requested him and I am also requesting you. Please listen to me. Please cooperate.

... *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing them. I am requesting them to sit down. I am not allowing them Santoshji, please take your seat. You can raise it at 12 noon. I do not know yet what it is.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you at 12 noon. I will allow you after the Leader of Opposition. At 12 noon I will call him first and then will call you second. I earnestly appeal to the hon. Leader of Opposition to please raise it at 12 noon. I appeal to him. Please let us do some good work. This is Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I will call him first at 12 o' clock.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Will all of you stand up to speak in this way?

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody will rise, and then there will be a problem. I have already allowed him but the question is, everybody started rising.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have highest regards for him. Please do not question that. I am appealing to him.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said anything on merits. On merits, I have nothing to say.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting humbly again and again that you do this at 12 O' clock. I have highest regards for him.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seats.

[*English*]

Go to your seats. I do not know whether Parliament of India should continue. What for you are calling the Parliament Session? Let us know what for we are having this Session? Let us go to the streets and then do what we want to do.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please go to your seat. Do not say anything from here.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can you assure that no other hon. Member would get up? You cannot assure that other hon. Members would not get up. Then, Question Hour should continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is important. I will allow him at 12 o' clock. As soon as the Question Hour is over, I will call him first. I am appealing to him again and again. With all humility, I am requesting him. He is such a senior Member. Not even a notice has been given. Let the country see! Let the people of this great country see, watch and decide for themselves!

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now, they are disturbing the House and saying that the House cannot function. We are opposed to it. We are interested in debating any issue that comes in the form of a proper Motion. But the manner in which they are disturbing is absolutely unapproved by you and unacceptable to the

House. ... (*Interruptions*) They are shouting now; let them see their track record of how many cases they are facing and how many court cases they are still pursuing. Let the whole country see what is their track record and what is the track record of this Government. Our Prime Minister took the resignation instantly, but in their case, they tried to shield. ... (*Interruptions*) You are facing trial! Why are you shouting? Why are you allowing us to rake up the whole issue of yours? Please protect yourselves! We are giving an opportunity to you to protect yourselves! Please engage a competent lawyer to save your people and to say your leaders! Do not try to expose yourselves! ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Eighteen minutes have passed and nothing has been done.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Although there is no notice given by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will call him at 12 noon. I am promising that. I am giving my undertaking that I will call him at 12 noon, as the first hon. Member to speak. I will call him in another 43 minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): I need only two minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. No. There are rules. Every day rules cannot be violated. I am not agreeable to that. You can do whatever you like.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is enough now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting again. How many times shall I make a request?

... (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker's views have no relevance and whatever you want only will be done! Sorry. I am accommodating the Opposition every day. I am sorry. Whatever you want to do, you can do. You may carry on.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am only following the well-established decision which was endorsed by our former Prime Minister and one of the greatest Parliamentarians that this country had produced, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

What he said was:

"Mr. Speaker Sir, in this House it has been demanded right from the beginning that Question Hour should be allowed to go on and whatever issues are there, those should be allowed to be raised later on with the kind consent of the hon. Speaker.

Today, you have repeated the same thing. I want to associated myself with your view. Let the Question Hour be allowed to go on. It is for all the Members, Members of all the political Parties, and not for one Party only."

I am only following this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in spite of your quoting the letter of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, what they are doing is, they are amply manifesting that they are disowning Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it. Why are you doing this? There are another 38 minutes for the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, after you have quoted the letter of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Members are still continuing. It means that they have already disowned him long back and perhaps that is why he is not coming to the House. Sir, this is the character of their Party. Your appealing to them has not yielded any result because they have already disowned Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, they are not following the advice given by Shri Vajpayee. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are repeating what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said. ... (Interruptions) It has been spoken by their leader. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): You just quoted Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, you read out anything, but nothing will happen. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not understand what is happening in the House.

[English]

What is happening in this House of People of India. We are taking the pride that we are the largest working democracy in the world. Is this the way we function? Is this the example we are setting? That is why even a Cricket Coach is abusing us.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I would request you to allow me to take up Question Hour for at least half an hour.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shahnawaz Ji, I am happy that you have been elected to the House. But you need not to waste your energy.

[English]

Do not waste your energy here like this. I had welcomed you here. Do not waste your breath.

[Translation]

Deliver a good speech, I will listen to you. Don't interrupt in Question Hour at least for remaining 35 minutes.

[English]

I appeal to you once more. How many times should I appeal to you? Kindly allow the Question Hour to be taken up. It is very pathetic.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not prepared listen to my appeals?

... (*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Establishment of Model Hospitals

*102. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a proposal to establish model hospitals with research and training facility in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the extent to which it will help in improving the maternal and child health care and also in reducing the mortality rate across the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. AMBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY) scheme in March, 2006. Under the scheme, it is proposed to set up six (6) new AIIMS like Institutions and upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College Institutions.

Each new AIIMS like Institutions would have 850 bedded Hospital (500 General Beds, 300 Speciality/Superspeciality beds and 50 beds for ICU/Trauma) and would have 39 departments covering all major disciplines. Each Institution would also have an intake capacity of 100 Under Graduates per year and a similar number of seats in Post Graduate/Post Doctoral courses. The estimated cost for setting up each institute is Rs. 332 crores based on CPWD plinth area rates.

The 6 AIIMS like institutions are proposed to be set up in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh).

The State Governments have provided a minimum of 100 acres of land and agreed to provide facilities for Water, Electricity supply and road connectivity. The Government of India has initiated the following activities viz. Pre Construction Survey (geo-technical, topographical & hydrological), Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study. The work of construction of boundary wall has been completed except in Patna where it would be completed by end of December, 2006. A Prototype Architectural design has been selected through a Global competition bid. The process for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), selection of Project Management Consultant and model of execution is being finalized.

In addition it is also proposed to strengthen 13 existing Medical College Institutions in terms of infrastructure and equipments. List of Institutions being upgraded is given in the statement enclosed. The Government of India is investing Rs. 100 Crores for each institution and the State Government's share is Rs. 20 Crores. In respect of SVIMS, Tirupati, the TTD trust is bearing half of the cost i.e. Rs. 60 Crores, and the Gol share is only Rs 60 Crores. Likewise, in respect of IMS (BHU) Varanasi, which is a Gol institution, Rs. 20 Crores is being provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The building up of capacity in tertiary healthcare, medical education and research in the deficient regions of the country would help provide trained manpower and improve accessibility of quality health care to the people. It will also provide the necessary referral linkage between primary, secondary and tertiary level care facilities and a leadership role to the CHCs/District Hospitals of the region. The setting up of these AIIMS like institutions would, therefore, help build capacity of the Primary Health Care delivery system for improved quality of maternal and child health care services.

Statement

Upgradation of 13 medical institutes under PMSSY

The following 13 medical institutes have already been identified for upgradation under PMSSY:

1. Government Medical College, Jammu (J&K)
2. Government Medical College, Srinagar (J&K)
3. Kolkatta Medical College, Kolkatta (W.B.)
4. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (U.P.)
5. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi (U.P.)

6. Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (A.P.)
7. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (A.P) (50% cost of upgradation will be borne by the TTD Trust)
8. Government Medical College, Salem (T.N.)
9. Patliputra Medical College & Hospital, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)
10. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
11. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore (Karnataka)
12. Grants Medical College & Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
13. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)

[Translation]

Eradication of Kala-azar

*103 SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) the number of persons died due to Kala-azar during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the incidence of the said disease has increased during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government including the funds allocated for eradication of the disease in the country; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There has been increase in number of kala-azar cases reported during the last three years due to intensive search for kala-azar cases and improved availability of drugs in Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, District Hospitals & tertiary health care institutions.

State-wise distribution of kala-azar reported cases and deaths during the last three years is as follows:

States	2003		2004		2005	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Bihar	13960	187	17324	107	23383	124
Delhi*	126	10	78	9	62	4
Uttar Pradesh	34	1	34	2	73	2
West Bengal	1487	7	3015	23	2706	15
Jharkhand	2607	5	4028	14	6578	12
Total	18214	210	24479	155	32802	157

*Imported Cases.

(d) The following steps have been taken to achieve the objectives of the Kala-azar Elimination Programme:

1. Provision of early diagnosis & complete treatment.
2. Ensuring vector control by undertaking residual

insecticide spraying of houses and cattle sheds in the affected villages.

3. Ensuring availability of drugs for treatment through all health facilities.
4. Introduction of rapid diagnostic kit rk39 and oral drug miltefosine during 2006-07 for early diagnosis and better treatment compliance.

5. Training to upgrade technical skills of functionaries at all levels, for treatment and the control of the disease.
6. Regular supervision & monitoring.
7. IEC activities to involve the community in the disease control measures.
8. Funds allocated to the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are given below:

(Rs.in lakhs)

Year	Cash	Kind	Total
2003-04	761.00	2318.00	3079.00
2004-05	1125.00	2922.94	4047.94
2005-06*	50.00	2600.00	2650.00

*Releases had to be curtailed in 2005-06 due to inadequate utilization by States.

(e) Due to free availability of drugs, the turnout of the patients has increased in Government Institutions. Capacity building and regular monitoring has improved service delivery.

Cargo Handling Capacity at Major Ports

*104 SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the details of the existing cargo handling capacity of the major ports;

(b) the details of infrastructural developments carried out in the major ports during the last three years, port-wise;

(c) the details of capacity of existing road infrastructure available for accessing these ports by cargo containers, including the time taken on an average for a container to return from port;

(d) whether the existing infrastructure of accessing roads to ports are adequate to facilitate projected growth in export-import trade;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has any plan to augment the cargo handling capacity of major ports; and

(g) if so, the steps contemplated to augment the same during the Eleventh Plan, port-wise alongwith time frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of the existing cargo handling capacity of the Major Ports as on 31.3.2006 is as under:

Sl.No.	Commodity	Total (in Million Tonnes)
1.	POL	162.25
2.	Iron Ore	55.80
3.	Coal (Thermal)	48.25
4.	Fertilizers	7.60
5.	General Break Bulk Cargo	122.20
6.	Container	62.10
	(in lakhs 20 Foot equivalent units)	(51.76)
Total		458.20

(b) The details of infrastructural developments carried out in the Major Ports during the last three years, Port-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (e) All Major Ports are connected to a network of National Highways. Capacity enhancement of infrastructure including roads is an ongoing process depending on the requirements. Road Connectivity Projects concerning Major Ports are generally executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) excepting some cases where small segments of roads falling in the Port area are developed by the Ports on their own. The details of the Port connectivity projects undertaken by NHAI are given in the enclosed statement-II.

The time taken by containers to return from the port *inter alia* depends on yard capacity, number of cranes and other cargo handling equipments, customs formalities, the capacity and conditions of the roads and on the initial and terminal points of the journey.

(f) and (g) A total of 276 projects in the 12 Major Ports have been identified under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) with the objective to upgrade and modernise and infrastructure in these Ports. These projects include construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail and road connectivity,

equipment upgradation, and other back up facilities. Some of the projects are already under implementation and other will be implemented by 2011-12 which is the terminal year of 11th five year plan. The Port-wise details are indicated in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement I

Infrastructural developments carried out in Major Ports during last three years inter alia include the following

Sl.No.	Port	Project
1	2	3
1.	Kolkata Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Two additional berths are being constructed in the impounded dock system at Haldia. (ii) Two mobile harbour cranes alongwith three reach stackers installed at Kolkata Dock System. (iii) Two rail mounted quay cranes commissioned at Haldia Dock Complex. (iv) Vessel Traffic Management Systems (VTMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) installed at the Port. (v) One Mooring berth develop at Sauger encroage. (vi) Induction of five rubber tyred gantry cranes. (vii) Development of berths, yards, sheds etc. and development of roads including parking facility are under implementation. (viii) Revamping of Railway yard and facilities at Kolkata Dock System (KDS). (ix) Development of road infrastructure including drainage inside and outside dock at Haldia Dock Complex (HDC). (x) Improvement of backup area with railway connctivity inside the dock at HDC. (xi) Procurement of a pilot cum survey vessel.
2.	Paradip Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Storage Plots developed (ii) Seven Railway sidings (iii) Oil Jetty commissioned. 2 Kms concrete road (iv) Extension of iron ore berth (v) Installation of two new cranes
3.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Procurement of a fire float (ii) Procurement of stacker for one handling complex

1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) Development of road (iv) Procurement of four 20 T electrical wharf cranes (v) Replacement of dredger (vi) Procurement of multi-purpose launch (vii) Improvement of stacking area/rail and road network. (viii) Construction of West Quay berth in Northern Arm of Inner Harbour. (ix) Procurement of 50 T Tug to replace a 30 T Bollard Pull Tug. (x) Construction of East Quay 8 and East Quay 9 berths in the Northern Arm of Inner Harbour on BOT basis.
4.	Ennore Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 4-laning of Tiruvottery Ponneri Panchetty (TPP) Road. (ii) Rail connectivity to coal and iron ore yards.
5.	Chennai Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Deepening of Inner Harbour Dr. Ambedkar Dock Basin and Berths. (ii) Procurement of 150 floating crane (iii) Procurement of four 15 T Electric Level Luffing Wharf (ELLW) Cranes (iv) Procurement of two 15 T Jessop Cranes (v) Development of security infrastructure in compliance with ISPS Code. (vi) Procurement/installation of water borne oil pollution clean up state of the art equipment.
6.	Tuticorin Port Trust	No infrastructure development project could be taken up during last three years for want of environmental clearance.
7.	Cochin Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) One Reach Stacker commissioned during March, 2004. (ii) Deepening of Inner Channels to 12.5 m draft.
8.	New Mangalore Port Trust	Construction of deep draft multi-purpose berth with a draft of 14 m.
9.	Mormugao Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Replacement of Barge Unloaders (ii) Deepening of Berth No. 9 and approach channel. (iii) Providing Marshalling Yard at Harbour. (iv) Construction of two multi-purpose of bulk cargo berths on BOT basis. (v) Construction of three mooring dolphins.
10.	Mumbai Port Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Upgradation of MbPT Railway Phase-II (ii) Replacement of common user pipeline from the manifold of Pier Pau to the storage yard at Sewri, Wadala.

1	2	3
		(iii) Modernisation of Jetties 1, 2 & 3 JD.
11.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	(i) Widening of Road construction of traffic island, widening of State Highway is in progress. (ii) 4-Laned NH-4B was commissioned on 21st July, 2005. (iii) Doubling of Rail Line between Panwel and JNPT.
12.	Kandla Port Trust	(i) Construction of One 2 MMT dry cargo berth. (ii) Construction of 12th berth (iii) Improvement of rail/road connectivity. (iv) Increase in covered storage area. (v) Increase in open storage area. (vi) Deepening of the channel from 11.20 m to 12 m. (vii) Procurement of eight heavy duty cranes. (viii) SPV Partner for gauge conversion rail project for improving rail connectivity to the hinterland.

Statement II**Details and Status of Port Connectivity Projects**

Sl.No.	Port	Length in km.	Scope of Work	Total approved Project Cost (Rs. crores)	Awarded Cost of Civil Works (Rs. in crores)	Cumulative % progress upto October 2006	Status of Works
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Mumbai	30					New Link (30 km). The proposed link passes over salt pans and involves elevated structures entailing high cost of construction. Mumbai Port Trust informed in May, 2004 that they would take up this work by themselves.
2.	Kandla	18	NH-8A (Samakhlyali Gandhidham Road Project Pkg.-I) Four laning of km 306-324	43.75	31.61	100	Date of Commencement: August, 1998 Scheduled Date of Completion: August, 2000 Completion achieved: February, 2001

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		22	NH-8A (Samakhya Gandhiham Road Project Pkg.-II) Four laning of km. 324-346	91.43	54.17	100	Date of Commencement: May, 1999 Scheduled Date of Completion: May, 2001 Completion achieved: July, 2002
		16.16	NH-8A (Samakhya Gandhiham Road Project Pkg.-III) Four laning of km. 346-3362	62.59	35.70	100	Date of Commencement: May, 1999 Scheduled Date of Completion: May, 2001 Completion achieved: January, 2002
3.	Jawaharal Nehru Port	30	Phase-I Four laning of NH-4B from km 5/000 to km 26/987 and km 0/000 to km 4/440 and four laning of NH-4 from km 106/000 to km 109/500	177.00	142.72	100	Date of Commencement: February, 2002 Date of Completion: July, 2005 Dedicated to the nation: 21st July 2005
		14.35	Phase-II Four laning of SH-54 from km 6.400 — 14.550 and construction of four lane Amra Marg including six lane major bridge across Panvel Creek (Balepur-Gavanphata-6.202 km) in Maharashtra State	143.00	127.21	53.49	Date of Commencement: November, 2004 Scheduled Date of Completion: May, 2007 Likely Completion: May, 2007
4.	Mormugao	18.3 (Presently 13.1 km 4 laned)	Four laning of NH-17B from Verna Junction on NH-17 to Mormugao Port	80.00	53 (18.1 km)	100	Work completed for 13.1 km Date of Commencement: 1998 Date of Completion: June, 2004 13.1km reach completed in May, 04. State Government could not give land free from encumbrances to take up balance 5.2 km. Balance stretch of 5.2 km may be taken up at a later stage only after completion of utility shifting, land acquisition & R&R etc., by the State Government for which payment has been released to them.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	New Mangalore	37.5	Four laning of NH-17 (Suratkal-Nantur section), NH-48 (Padil Bantwal section) & a bypass from Nantur junction on NH-17 to Padil junction on NH-8	196.50	168.22 (excluding cost of ROBs /RUB)	1.0	Date of Commencement — June, 2005 Likely date of completion: June 2008
6.	Cochin	10.40	Four laning of NH-47 from km 348/382 to km 358/750	106.00	79.53	42	Work in progress Date of Commencement: February, 2004 Scheduled Date of Completion: August, 2006 Likely Completion December, 2007
7.	Tuticorin	47.2	Four laning of NH-7A from Km 4/000 to km 51/200	231.20	137.80	22	Work in progress Date of Commencement: February, 2004 Scheduled Date of Completion: August, 2006 Likely Completion: Dec 2007
8.	Chennai	30	Chennai — Ennore Port Connectivity Project — (i) Sea protection work (cost 25 Crore). (ii) TPP Road (Cost Rs. 37.5 Crore). (iii) (a) MORR (5.4 km.) (b) IRR (8.1 km.) (c) 1.6 km. from gate to Ennore Expressway (Cost Rs. 54 Crore.) (iv) Balance Ennore Expressway (cost Rs. 34 Crore)	309	Rs. 24.57 crore four laning of TPP Road Rs. 39.28 crore Bids received — Lowest Bid: Rs. 79.3 Crore.	Completed (June, 06)	(i) Sea Protection Work along Ennore Expressway Date of Commencement: June, 2003 — Scheduled Date of Completion: June, 2005 Actual completion: June, 2006 (ii) Four laning of TPP Road Date of Commencement: May, 2006 Scheduled Date of Completion: Nov., 2007 Scope of work revised in Dec 05. (iii) For IRR, MoRR & 1.6 km EE, financial bid received is 46 % excess. (iv) Ennore Expressway could not be taken up for R&R of PAFs. Likely date of start of balance Ennore Expressway — December, 2007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Visakhapatnam	12.47	Visakhapatnam Port connectivity	94.00	77.78	99.0	Work in progress Date of Commencement: June, 2002 Scheduled Date of Completion: December, 2004 Likely completion: Nov., 2006 Two ramps will be completed by 30.11.2006 and reach is likely to be opened by 01.12.06
10.	Paradip	77	Four laning of NH-5A from km 0/0 to km 77/0	427.40	327.77	47.3	Work in Progress Date of Commencement: February, 2004 Scheduled Date of Completion: February, 2007 Likely Completion: Dec, 2007 (Traffic congestion)
11.	Haldia	52.2	Four laning of km /0/500 to km 52/700 of Kolaghat-Haldia section of NH-41 in the State of West Bengal	273.00	219.99	38.6	Work in progress Date of Commencement: September, 2002 Scheduled Date of Completion: March, 2005 Likely Completion: December, 2007
12.	Kolkata (excluding Barasat Bypass)	10			-	-	Upgradation of 10 km of road connectivity to Kolkata Port including 1.7 km long elevated road link between Vidayasagar Setu & Swing Bridge was proposed to be taken up subject to its viability. Investment decision will be taken with approval of competent Authority on availability of DPR.

*The capacity of 4 lane roads with central divider and 1.5 metre paved shoulder is around 40,000 PCUs (Passenger Car Units) per day. These Highways have been designed for a speed of 80 — 100 KMPH.

Statement III**Projects envisaged under National Maritime Development Programme for augmentation of capacity of Major Ports**

Sl.No.	Major Port	Number of Projects	Capacity to be achieved by 2011-12 (in million Tonnes)
1.	Kolkata Port Trust	40	82.87
2.	Paradip Port Trust	28	88.86
3.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust	38	106.80
4.	Ennore Port Limited	14	45.24
5.	Chennai Port Trust	14	60.58
6.	Tuticorin Port Trust	24	39.52
7.	Cochin Port Trust	14	42.90
8.	New Mangalore Port Trust	20	54.94
9.	Mormugao Port Trust	12	53.30
10.	Mumbai Port Trust	14	51.48
11.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	32	81.95
12.	Kandla Port Trust	26	92.17
Total:		276	800.41

*[English]***Opening of Post Offices in Rural Areas**

*105. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not opened any new Post Offices since 2002 in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to increase the Post Offices especially in rural areas in the country; and

(d) if so, the number of Post Offices likely to be opened in the country including their location, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2002-03 & 2003-04, 485 new Post Offices were opened throughout the country.

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

(c) and (d) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources. Norms for opening of Post Offices in rural areas especially in hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas are relaxed and highly subsidized.

In consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Five Year Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no plan targets for opening of new Post Offices have been allotted since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening a post office is found, it can only be opened

on a case to case basis by relocation of an existing post office which is no longer justified, as per departmental norms at its present location.

Upgradation and Modernisation of Ports

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to facilitate participation of private sector in the upgradation and modernisation of major ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the ports proposed to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government has already put in place, a scheme for private sector participation in the major ports. The comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government for private sector participation in major ports lay down, *inter alia*, the areas identified for such participation, the regulatory framework, modalities of participation, the bidding and evaluation process, the selection criteria and other general terms and conditions. The Government has also prescribed model documents for bidding, license agreement, etc. for such participation to guide the major ports in carving out project specific documents. The Government has so far approved 21 private sector projects in the major ports. Under the National Maritime Development Programme, a number of projects in all the 12 major ports have been identified for private sector participation. However, the process of identification and award of specific projects for upgradation and modernization is an ongoing one, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Dental Colleges

*107 SHRI KIREN RIJU:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether a number of private dental colleges have been opened in the country after 2001 as reported in *Jansatta* dated August 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether some of the dental colleges in the country do not conform to the laid down norms and are playing havoc with the future of the students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Central Government has granted permission for establishment of 106 private dental colleges from 2001 after duly assessing the availability of infrastructure and facilities, including teaching faculty, as per the Regulations framed under the Dentists Act, 1948 (16 of 1948). In view of the increased number of dental colleges, the Central Government has increased the upper age limit for retirement of dental teaching faculty from 65 to 70 years to ensure availability of qualified and experienced dental teachers.

The standard of Dental education is maintained by ensuring that such permission for opening of new dental colleges/renewal of permission by Central Government is granted only after ensuring that the colleges have the required infrastructure as per the Regulations and through continued periodic inspections by Dental Council of India as per the Statute.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to consider the desirability and feasibility of establishment of new dental colleges after having regard to the number of dental colleges existing in the State, the number of dental surgeons available and the dentists population ratio in the State, etc., while granted the Essentiality Certificate for establishment of a new dental college at a particular location.

Financial Performance of BSNL

*108. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the total revenue earned by the BSNL during the last two years;

(b) whether the revenue earned by the BSNL has declined over the years against the target fixed for the same;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) During the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, total revenue earned (collected) by BSNL was Rs. 33450 crore and Rs. 36139 crore respectively.

(b) No, Sir. The revenue earned by the BSNL has not declined over the years. The details of revenue for the last two years, vis-a-vis targets fixed for collection are as under:

Year	Target	Actual
2004-05	Rs. 32052 crore	Rs. 33450 crore
2005-06	Rs. 33159 crore	Rs. 36139 crore

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

[English]

Survey on TB

*109 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the number of persons affected by tuberculosis every year;

(b) if so, the details of the study conducted including the sample size of survey in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has failed to treat pulmonary TB patients in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government has received any suggestions from the Joint Monitoring Committee on TB of the World Health Organisation regarding eradication of this disease; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (g) A nationwide cross-sectional survey was conducted in different zones of India to assess the prevailing epidemiological situation of TB, by estimating the Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI) between January 2000 and 2003. As per the estimate, there are around 75 new smear positive TB cases per lakh population in India totalling to nearly 8 lakh new smear positive cases per year. The detail of the TB survey is given in the enclosed statement.

To control TB, with an objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, was implemented in the country in a phased manner from 1997. The entire country had been covered under RNTCP by March 2006. Under RNTCP, diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 63.00 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 11.33 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1.0 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2005 alone, India placed more than 12.93 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death are reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy. It would, therefore, be incorrect to say that the Government has failed to treat Pulmonary TB patients in the country.

The Programme was reviewed by a Joint Monitoring Mission in October, 2006. The Mission has appreciated the significant progress made by the Indian TB Control

Programme, and hailed it as the fastest expansion of DOTS in the world. To preserve and strengthen the substantial achievements of the Programme, the Mission suggested to address the following:

1. Ensure financial and human resource sustainability of the programme.
2. Ensure that anti-tuberculosis drug procurement, core full-time RNTCP staff, reporting and tuberculosis-specific financing are continued under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
3. With expanding opportunities for the programme with the introduction of NRHM, it is essential to increase the programme management capacity at central and State levels.
4. Increase programme effectiveness by improving case detection, decentralization of DOTS, simplification of reporting mechanism, further strengthen involvement of health care providers in other sectors and effectively use communication strategies to improve awareness of free microscopy and TB care under RNTCP.
5. Further develop and implement strategies for Multi Drug Resistant TB and HIV/TB.

Statement

National Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI) Survey

The study was conducted by National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI), Bangalore, along with Tuberculosis

Research Centre (TRC), Chennai and other institutions in collaboration with Central TB Division, between January 2000 and 2003.

For the purpose of the survey, the country was stratified into four zones, viz north, south, east and west each having approximately equal population. A staggering 1,88,103 children between 1 to 9 years of age were investigated in 26 districts:

The zone-wise selection of districts for the survey is as under:

- North zone : Raebarely, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Gurdaspur, Kangra, Delhi.
- South zone : Dakshina Kannada, Belgaum, Mallapuram, Medak, Kanyakumari, Chingelput.
- West zone : Junagadh, Nagpur, Ratnagiri, Thane, Jhabua, Kota.
- East zone : Samstipur, Purbi Singhbhum, Papum Pare, Cuttack, Kamrup, East Sikkim, Jalpaiguri, Bardhaman.

The survey was designed to estimate the average ARTI in each of the four zones. Zone-wise distribution of the different States/Union Territories and the total estimated New Smear positive cases per lakh population based on the zonal ARTI estimates is summarized below:-

Zone	States/Union Territories	Estimated New Sputum Positive cases per lakh population	Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI)
North	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttaranchal	95	1.9%
East	Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, Arunchal Pradesh, Jharkhand	65	1.3%
South	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep	50	1%
West	Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh	80	1.6%

The zonal ARTI estimates derived from the study were also used to estimate a national ARTI of 1.5% (estimated new smear positive cases = 75/lakh).

The above table exhibits that the ARTI is highest in the Northern Zone, followed by the Western Zone and Eastern Zone. The ARTI is lowest in the Southern Zone.

Growth Rate of Services Sector

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

(a) the annual growth rate of services sector and its share in GDP for the last five years;

(b) the requirement and availability of skilled manpower needed to sustain the growth rate in the field of health, information technology, education, legal services, tourism etc.,

(c) the future requirement projections of skilled manpower and steps being taken to set up more universities and institutions of higher learning, to meet demands of medical outsourcing and tourism development to take advantage of our demographics;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to open up foreign direct investment in building up a pool of skilled manpower to sustain growth and competitiveness of services sector ensuring a balance between emerging demands and availability of skilled manpower; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The information on annual growth rate of services and its share in GDP for the last five years is given in the table below:

Annual Growth Rate and Share of Services Sector in GDP at constant (1999-2000) prices

Year	Annual Growth rate (%)	Percentage contribution (%)
1	2	3
1999-2000	—	49.2
2000-2001	5.6	49.8

1	2	3
2001-2002	7.1	50.5
2002-2003	7.3	52.2
2003-2004	8.2	52.1
2004-2005	9.9	53.2
2005-2006	10.0	54.0

Source: "National Accounts Statistics 2006", published by Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(b) and (c) There is no centralized system of assessing and projecting the specific requirement and availability of skilled manpower in various sectors such as health, information technology, education, legal services, tourism etc. These are studied/assessed by specialized bodies/agencies. Industry associations, trade bodies and chambers of commerce periodically estimate the requirement of skilled manpower in their specific areas.

The higher education system in the country is in the broad control of the University Grants Commission (UGC), which is responsible for coordination, determination and maintenance of standards etc., and the Professional Councils are responsible for recognition of courses, promotion of professional institutions, etc.

Apart from the statutory councils, there are many other autonomous societies/institutions of higher learning, touching upon the issue of skilled manpower development.

(d) and (e) No decision has been taken regarding Foreign Direct Investment in education and training.

[Translation]

Life-Saving Equipments in Hospitals

*111. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether latest life-saving equipments are available in all the hospitals under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of equipments available with each hospital at present;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of such equipments actually required by these hospitals; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government including the funds being provided to each hospital in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Life saving equipments are available in Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals and JIPMER, Puducherry. The total number of equipments costing more than Rs. one lakh available in the Central Government Hospitals is as under:-

Safdarjung Hospital	544
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	564
LHMC	222
JIPMER	206

The strengthening of the Hospitals is a continuous dynamic process. The latest equipments are procured as per need and with the available resources.

The funds provided over three years for purchase of equipment to Central Government Hospitals are as under:-

Hospital	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Safdarjung Hospital	22.90	20.90	12.99
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	7.75	21.25	11.00
LHMC & SSK Hospital	4.50	5.50	6.00
JIPMER, Puducherry	5.63	45.37	23.33

[English]

Eradication of Leprosy

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

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether funds allocated for leprosy have decreased over the years;

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

(d) the target fixed by the Government for eradication of leprosy in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) The details about new cases detected and cases on record at the end of year, State-wise and year-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

Year-wise funds allocated and released to States during the 10th Plan (2002-07) is given below:-

Year	Fund allocation (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Actual release
2002-03	75.00	75.00	74.97
2003-04	74.20	54.97	50.22
2004-05	55.00	42.84	42.34
2005-06	41.75	28.32	23.46
2006-07	42.25	38.36	24.59

(Rs. In crore)

(As on 31.10.06)

The funds released to the States have marginally declined over the years and the reasons are as under:-

- (i) Due to declining trend of leprosy in the country, the requirement of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) has also decreased.
- (ii) Most of the contractual vertical staff existing under 2nd NLEP project was phased out after March, 2004.
- (iii) Unspent balance lying with States was taken into consideration for calculating the actual amount to be released since 2004-05 onwards.

The Government has not fixed any target date for eradication of leprosy in the country. As per National Health Policy 2002, the goal was to achieve elimination of leprosy as a public health problem (Reaching PR below 1 case per/10,000 population) at National level which was achieved in December, 2005. At present, the country is working towards further reducing the load of leprosy from the remaining States/Districts that have not achieved elimination and to sustain the same with provision of quality leprosy services from all Health Centres.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is being continued with special emphasis as below:-

- (i) Sustaining the availability of diagnostic and treatment services to leprosy patients from all

Government Health Institutions in rural and urban areas.

- (ii) Achieving elimination of Leprosy in remaining States, districts and blocks by providing quality Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) services with Focused attention on Endemic districts, Endemic Blocks, Endemic urban localities, Districts with high disability rate and States with higher child proportion.
- (iii) Capacity Building of all categories of staff by induction and reorientation training.
- (iv) Increasing awareness about Leprosy among masses and inter personal communication (IPC) to remove social stigma.

Statement

New Cases Detected and Cases on Record for last 3 years

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
		New Cases Detected	Annual NCDR/ 10,000	Cases on record as on March	PR	New Cases Detected	Annual NCDR/ 10,000	Cases on record as on March	PR	New Cases Detected	Annual NCDR/ 10,000	Cases on record as on March	PR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31816	4.04	15628	1.99	18751	2.35	6323	0.79	8171	1.01	4567	0.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	104	0.89	82	0.70	66	0.55	69	0.58	56	0.46	61	0.50
3.	Assam	1331	0.47	1293	0.46	1227	0.43	1182	0.41	1176	0.41	1098	0.38
4.	Bihar	65019	7.28	44351	4.97	40395	4.42	16532	1.81	25835	2.76	12166	1.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	15385	7.04	12918	5.91	13110	5.90	7994	3.60	9040	4.00	4515	2.00
6.	Goa	320	2.28	263	1.88	290	2.04	200	1.41	186	1.29	132	0.92
7.	Gujarat	10229	1.90	6946	1.29	6900	1.26	3651	0.67	6399	1.14	4082	0.73
8.	Haryana	643	0.28	477	0.21	449	0.19	423	0.18	333	0.14	388	0.16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	308	0.48	275	0.43	252	0.39	241	0.37	231	0.35	205	0.31
10.	Jharkhand	17719	6.19	11636	4.06	19131	6.54	7823	2.68	7357	2.47	3912	1.31
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	356	0.33	366	0.34	298	0.27	348	0.31	253	0.22	292	0.26
12.	Karnataka	10598	1.92	7742	1.40	7850	1.40	4921	0.88	5307	0.93	3272	0.57
13.	Kerala	1891	0.58	1627	0.50	1500	0.45	1282	0.39	1159	0.35	998	0.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12699	1.97	10329	1.80	7626	1.16	6182	0.94	6650	1.02	4932	0.73
15.	Maharashtra	44192	4.30	29497	2.87	32618	3.11	16513	1.57	13844	1.29	6888	0.64
16.	Manipur	53	0.21	38	0.15	41	0.15	33	0.12	45	0.17	35	0.13
17.	Meghalaya	17	0.07	32	0.13	27	0.11	42	0.16	16	0.06	31	0.12
18.	Mizoram	18	0.19	10	0.10	18	0.18	10	0.10	24	0.24	16	0.16
19.	Nagaland	55	0.24	33	0.14	59	0.24	38	0.16	98	0.39	47	0.19
20.	Orissa	21201	5.53	13382	3.49	20595	5.29	8325	2.14	8477	2.15	4177	1.06
21.	Punjab	1345	0.52	1218	0.48	1173	0.45	1047	0.40	1143	0.43	1084	0.41
22.	Rajasthan	2000	0.33	2291	0.38	1299	0.21	1996	0.32	1442	0.23	1479	0.23
23.	Sikkim	47	0.80	40	0.68	39	0.64	26	0.43	37	0.59	36	0.58
24.	Tamil Nadu	16051	2.50	8868	1.38	11244	1.74	5503	0.85	6654	1.02	3919	0.60
25.	Tripura	93	0.28	92	0.28	60	0.18	47	0.14	73	0.21	83	0.24
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80072	4.50	62575	3.52	48010	2.64	33684	1.86	36409	1.96	21761	1.17
27.	Uttaranchal	1971	2.15	1226	1.37	1280	1.41	850	0.93	894	0.97	661	0.71
28.	West Bengal	25050	2.97	25757	3.06	20891	2.44	18041	2.11	15755	1.81	10794	1.24
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55	1.44	29	0.76	48	1.23	38	0.92	26	0.65	28	0.70
30.	Chandigarh	346	3.48	290	2.91	289	2.81	285	2.77	247	2.32	188	1.77
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	616	24.38	311	12.31	195	7.38	66	2.50	157	5.67	47	1.70
32.	Daman and Diu	5	0.28	3	0.17	2	0.11	2	0.11	6	0.31	2	0.10
33.	Delhi	5362	3.48	6052	3.92	4221	2.64	4958	3.10	3705	2.23	3221	1.94
34.	Lakshadweep	4	0.63	16	2.52	3	0.46	5	0.77	5	0.76	5	0.76
35.	Pondichery	226	2.20	88	0.85	106	1.01	32	0.31	47	0.44	28	0.28
Total		367143	3.37	265781	2.44	260063	2.34	148910	2.34	161457	1.43	95150	0.84

NCDR — New Case Detection Rate.

National Rural Health Mission

*113. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has tied up with private bodies to assess the success of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been carried out in the States in this regard;

(d) if so, the results of the survey;

(e) the details of bodies that are supervising/assessing the success of NRHM in the States, particularly Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the number of ASHAs appointed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages an accountability framework through a three pronged process of community based monitoring, external studies and stringent internal monitoring. One of the potent mechanism of monitoring the progress of the initiatives is evaluation through reputed independent agencies. The various initiatives under the Mission are accordingly being allocated to the appropriate agencies for concurrent evaluation. The following actions have already been taken in this regard:

1. Independent evaluation of Immunisation initiative was entrusted to UNICEF and preliminary reports have been received. These indicate All India coverage of BCG vaccination at 83%, DPT3 at 67% OPV3 at 61.3% and Measles at 68.1%.
2. The Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI), New Delhi has been assigned the responsibility of review of financial systems at all levels in health sector. This pilot study has been allocated for one district each of the five States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Kerala and Tamill Nadu.
3. The UNFPA has been allocated the task of rapid evaluation of ASHA initiative and JSY in three States of MP, Rajasthan and Orissa.
4. The Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of NRHM has approved a proposal for comprehensive, independent evaluation of the Mission activities through selected reputed institutions.
5. The Government also undertakes regular District Level Household Surveys (which generates District level data and focus on utilisation of Public Health services and user satisfaction). Besides, the National Family Health Survey is also conducted in a sample of households throughout the country every five years. It provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice

of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition and other related services. The Sample Registration Survey (SRS) which is conducted by the Registrar General of India would also give important insight into the effectiveness of various strategies under NRHM.

(e) The monitoring of NRHM activities in States is done under overall supervision of State Health Mission and the Integrated State Health Society. The State Health Mission is headed by the Chief Minister. The Governing Body of the State health Society, headed by the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner and the Executive Committee of the society headed by the Principle Secretary/Secretary (H & FW) are the highest decision making Mission. At the District level, this task is done by the District health Mission which is headed by Chairman Zila Parishad. The District Magistrate heads the Governing body of District Health Society and CEO, Zilla Parishad heads the Executive Committee. These bodies are highest decision making authorities for supervising and assessing progress of NRHM at the district level. At the level of respective health facility, supervision and assessing success of NRHM initiatives rests with Rogi Kalyan Samitis (RKS) of the respective facility. These Samitis have representation of elected representatives and ensure control of the community over health infrastructure.

In Andhra Pradesh, State and District Health Missions have already been constituted and operationalised. Over 1062 Rogi Kalyan Samitis have also been constituted at various levels in Andhra Pradesh for supervision of the NRHM initiatives in the facilities. The independent evaluation of Immunisation in the State by UNICEF has reported 97% coverage for BCG, 85% coverage for DPT3, 83.4% coverage for OPV3 and 82.7% coverage for Measles. This evaluation has reported 72.3% coverage of Full Immunisation of children in the State. The coverage of Pulse Polio initiative has been reported at 96.3%.

(f) ASHA is envisaged to be a trained, voluntary, community link worker who would reinforce community action for universal immunization, safe delivery, newborn care, prevention of water-borne and other communicable diseases, nutrition and sanitation etc. Selection of ASHA is envisaged in 18 High Focus States and in tribal areas of other States. As on date, 2.39 lakh ASHAs have been reported as selected by various States out of which 1.18 lakh have also received first module training. States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh have selected and trained Health Link Workers similar to ASHA as part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (II).

Indo-EU Ties

*114. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to strengthen its ties with the European Union (EU);

(b) whether any exchange/training programmes in the field of academics, media and business have taken place during the last one year;

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

(d) whether EU has any proposals for funding in the North-Eastern Region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has always attached importance to its relations with the European Union and GOI has taken several steps to strengthen its ties with the Union. Frequent bilateral interaction takes place at several levels covering the entire gamut of political, economic, S&T, educational, civil society, parliamentary and cultural relations. India-EU relations have grown from what used to be a purely trade and economic driven relationship to a strategic partnership agreed upon at the 5th India-EU Summit at The Hague in 2004. A Joint Action Plan was endorsed at the 6th Summit held in New Delhi in September 2005. It is a comprehensive road map for India-EU interaction in all important sectors. The relationship was further strengthened at the 7th India-EU Summit held in Helsinki on October 13, 2006, when the two sides also agreed to launch negotiations on a broad based Trade and Investment Agreement.

There are various programmes of cooperation relating to academics, media and business.

There is a separate India Window under the Erasmus Mundus programme for Indian students, which is operational since 2005. It provides scholarships for Masters Courses in large number of subjects. There is an EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme (ECCP) which promotes and facilitates interactions between civil society organization in India and EU in the fields of media, enterprise and academic cooperation. Interaction has also

begun through the first EU-India Higher Education Fair on 25-28 November 2006.

An India-EU CEO Round Table was launched during the 7th India-EU Summit in October at Helsinki under the lead of the business confederations on both sides. An India-EU Business Summit, which is an annual event, was organised in parallel with the Summit.

The European Commission invites Indian journalists from time to time, *inter alia*, to acquaint them with the EU and its functioning.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Fake SC/ST Certificates

*115. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons secured Government jobs on the basis of fake SC/ST certificates;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected;

(c) whether any action has been taken against those found guilty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to prevent recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the Civil Writ Petition No.5976 of 2003 filed by Shri Chadreshwar Prasad, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating certain cases of the employees who have secured jobs under the Government of India/Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi or its agencies on the basis of forged/false Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates during 1995-2000.

CBI has registered 34 cases for securing jobs on the basis of fake ST certificates. Out of these 34 cases, charge sheets have been filed in 14 cases against

25 persons and 7 cases have been closed for want of evidence. In one case, regular departmental action for major penalty has been recommended and the investigation has not been completed in the remaining 12 cases.

As regards securing jobs on the basis of fake SC certificate, CBI has registered 2 cases against 3 persons and investigation has not been completed in both these cases.

The Government has issued instructions from time to time that it is mandatory on the part of the appointing authority to verify the caste status of SC/ST officials at the time of initial appointment and promotion. These instructions have been reiterated vide O.M. No.36011/3/2005-Estt.(Res.) dated 09.09.2005.

**Road Development Programmes for
North-Eastern States**

*116. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has major road development programmes for the North-Eastern States;

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

(c) the cost involved therein, State-wise;

(d) the actual expenditure incurred during the last two years, State-wise; and

(e) the time frame fixed for completion of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted with construction and widening of 1227 km long sections of National Highways in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim under National Highways Development Project — II (NHDP — II) i.e. North-South East-West Corridor and phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) and also for preparation of Detailed Project Reports for 4-laning of 1381 km long National Highway sections in Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura under NHDP-IIIB and phase 'B' of SARDP-NE. The details, including cost involved, are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The expenditure has been incurred only on the construction of East-West corridor (NHDP Ph-II) in Assam, as given below. The construction and widening of roads under SARDP-NE, phase 'A' had not started till the end of 2005-06:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. Crore)
2004-05	15.82
2005-06	98.77

(e) The substantial completion of construction and widening of National Highway sections under NHDP-II and phase 'A' of SARDP-NE is targeted by December, 2008 and March, 2009, respectively. The time-frame for 4-laning under NHDP-IIIB and phase 'B' of SARDP-NE will be finalised along with the investment decision.

Statement

Construction and widening of National Highways and preparation of Detailed Project Reports for 4-laning of National Highways in North Eastern region taken up by the National Highways Authority of India

Sl.No.	Stretch of National Highway	Length (km)	Cost (Rs. Crore)	State
1	2	3	4	5
Construction and widening				
1.	Construction and widening to 4-lane from Srirampur to Silchar, as part of East-West corridor under NHDP-II.	678	6000	Assam

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Construction and widening to 4-lane from Nagaon to Dibrugarh, NH 37 under SARDP-NE, phase 'A'.	315	1890	Assam
3.	Construction and widening to 4-lane from Jorabat to Barapani, NH 40 under SARDP-NE, phase 'A'.	62	372	Meghalaya
4.	Construction and widening to 4-lane from Dimapur to Kohima, NH 39 under SARDP-NE, phase 'A'.	81	486	Nagaland
5.	Construction of Shillong bypass under SARDP-NE, phase 'A'.	50	300	Meghalaya
6.	Construction and widening to 2-lane with paved shoulders from West Bengal/Sikkim border to Gangtok, NH 31A under SARDP-NE, phase 'A'.	41	246	Sikkim
Total		1227 km		

Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for 4-laning

1.	4-laning from Daboka to Dimapur, NH 36 & 39, NHDP-IIIB	124	Yet to be assessed	Assam & Nagaland
2.	4-laning Baihata Charali to Itanagar, NH 52 & 52A, NHDP IIIB	345	Yet to be assessed	Assam & Arunachal Pradesh
3.	4-laning from Kohima to Imphal, NHDP IIIB	140	Yet to be assessed	Nagaland & Manipur
4.	4-laning from Shillong to Churaibari, excluding Shillong bypass, NH 44 under NHDP-IIIB.	252	Yet to be assessed	Assam, Meghalaya & Tripura
5.	4-laning from Silchar to Aizwal, NH 54 under NHDP-IIIB	190	Yet to be assessed	Assam & Mizoram
6.	4-laning from Churaibari to Agartala to Sabroom, NH 44 under SARDP-NE, phase 'B'	330	Yet to be assessed	Tripura
Total		1381 km		

Strike by Chemists

*117. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent strikes by the authorized chemists supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries, particularly in Delhi are putting the beneficiaries in great inconvenience;

(b) if so, the number of times the chemists went on strike during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the authorized chemists do not supply all the prescribed medicines and the beneficiaries have to visit dispensaries a number of times to procure the same;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the system of procuring specialists' prescribed medicines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Since January, 2006, the chemists supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries in Delhi have not gone on strike and no beneficiary has been put to inconvenience thereto. However, the chemists had resorted to strike during the last 3 years on the dates as mentioned below:-

- (1) 1.1.2003 to 17.1.2003
- (2) 1.11.2003 to 16.1.2004
8.3.04 to 4.4.04
26.8.04 to 31.8.04
- (3) 17.2.05 to 28.2.05
25.3.05 to 18.4.05
24.11.05 to 14.12.05

The reason for the strike was mostly due to non-payment of their bills due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year and it took time to seek additional fund for clearing the bills of the Chemists. In March, 2005, the Chemist had also raised the issue of introduction of VAT by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(c) No. Sir. By and large the authorized Chemists supply the prescribed medicines. Whenever the prescribed medicines are not supplied by the Local Chemists, the beneficiaries are allowed to purchase the same from the open market and get the reimbursement.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, the question do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of 'Coal Videsh'

*118. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited proposes to set up a company named 'Coal Videsh' to explore the possibilities of coal mining in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the said proposal?

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

(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to set up a new subsidiary "Coal Videsh Limited" for acquiring coal equities abroad.

(c) CIL has submitted the proposal for approval of the Government and the same is under consideration.

[English]

Introduction of Biometric Passports

*119. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to introduce biometric passports using sophisticated finger printing technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passports at present are liable to be tampered with and manipulated; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the introduction of biometric passports is likely to put a check on alleged tampering of passports?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to introduce e-passports, also known as bio-metric passports, initially for diplomats and officials as a pilot project.

(c) The passports at present are machine-printed and machine-readable; and as per the specifications laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). There have been a few cases, where unscrupulous elements have tried to tamper with the passports by substituting the photographs or changing personal particulars.

(d) The incorporation of bio-metrics in the passports such as finger-prints etc. will put a check on the tampering of passports and will make them more secure travel documents as per international standards.

Uniform Security Guidelines for Telecom Companies

*120. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has ensured that national security will not be compromised while enhancing FDI in the telecom sector from 49% to 74% as reported in the *Business Line* dated October 27, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Department of Telecom (DoT) has suggested uniform security guidelines for telecom companies irrespective of foreign investment or foreign nationals heading the company;

(d) if so, the detailed guidelines framed by DoT in this regard;

(e) whether these guidelines have been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which security guidelines are likely to be issued to telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government has already notified the policy for enhancement of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling from 49% to 74% in telecom sector vide Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) dated 03.11.2005, which also stipulates certain conditions for addressing the security concerns. A number of representations have been received from various stakeholders seeking relaxation of some of the conditions in the interest of sustained growth of the telecom sector and Information Technology sector, which is dependent on telecom infrastructure. These representations are under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (g) The representations received, as mentioned above, are being examined through inter-ministerial consultations, wherein concerned ministries/departments including the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have expressed their views.

Revision in the policy for FDI in the telecom sector, if any, is likely to be announced on or before 2nd January, 2007.

[Translation]

Computer Facilities in Post Offices of Rural Areas

*121. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide rural post offices with e-mail, internet and computer facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rural post offices in the country presently equipped with e-mail, internet and Computer facilities;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any time bound programme to provide computer facilities in the remaining rural post offices in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has provided departmental rural post offices having more than two public counters each with computer facilities. There are 2,355 such post offices of which 243 have internet and 181 e-mail transmission facilities.

(d) and (e) As of now, the Department does not have any approved time bound programme to provide computer facilities in the remaining rural post offices of the country. However, formulations in this regard are in progress.

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

[English]

Implementation of Awards of Board of Arbitration

1067. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has appointed Board of Arbitration to settle disputes between the Government and its employees;

(b) if so, the requisite provisions in this regard;

(c) the number of awards given by the Board, which have not been implemented so far;

(d) the reasons for non-implementation of the awards of the Board; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Union Government for the implementation of the awards of the Board of Arbitration alongwith the progress made 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) and (b) Under Para 19 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government employees, there is provision for appointment of a Board of Arbitration. The Board consist of a Chairperson and a member each from the Staff side and Official Side drawn from a panel of five names submitted by each side.

Consequent to completion of tenure of the previous Chairperson Board of Arbitration, process for appointment of a new Chairperson has been commenced by Ministry of Labour.

(c) to (e) Presently, there are 16 awards of Board of Arbitration which are under consideration. Out of these, 8 awards are under consideration with the Government while in the other 8 awards, resolution is to be moved in the Parliament.

The matter regarding implementation of awards was discussed with the Staff Side of JCM. The Staff Side desires that the 16 pending Arbitration Awards be discussed with the Staff Side first, before the Government processed those Awards further.

Accordingly, discussions on pending Awards have been held by respective Ministries like Ministry of Finance, Department of Posts and Department of Personnel & Training.

[Translation]

Employment Opportunities

1068. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of proposed schemes formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Planning Commission to generate employment opportunities in all the sectors of Economy including Agriculture during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Various development schemes with employment potential are implemented by the Government in all the sectors of economy. Some of these schemes include Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, District Primary Education Programme, Mid-Day-Meal, National Rural Health Mission, National Mission on Sanitation, National Urban Renewal Mission, Bharat Nirman Scheme to build Rural Infrastructure, Schemes for Women Self Help Groups like Swyamsidha, Swashakti, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh etc., Integrated Child Development Services, Up-gradation of Industrial Training Institutes to Centres of Excellence, National Child Labour Project, National Rail Vikas Yojana, National Highway Development Project, Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-Eastern-Region, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, Schemes for Khadi and Village Industries, Capacity Building of Tourism

Service Providers, Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits and Product Infrastructure and Destination Development for Tourism.

The schemes which are primarily for poverty alleviation and employment generation are Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana and Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana for rural areas, Swarn Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana for urban areas, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for educated unemployed and Rural Employment Generation Programme for setting up rural industries.

The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in September, 2005. The Act guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act will cover the whole country within five years. Two hundred districts have been identified for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the first phase.

For agricultural development, thrust areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan are for utilization of waste land, watershed development, rain water harvesting, development of irrigation especially micro irrigation, diversification to high value crops, seed and planting material production, agri-clinics/agri-business centres, increasing cropping intensity, promotion of organic farming, dairy, poultry, fisheries etc.

National Horticultural Mission has been launched in 2005-06 for agricultural diversification into horticultural crops to increase income of the farmers.

So far over 537 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established to disseminate farm technology to farmers and provide training to increase agricultural productivity.

Implementation of RTI Act

1069. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint initiative has been undertaken alongwith United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with a view to implementing the Right to Information Act; 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) The 'Capacity Building for Access to Information' project is a joint initiative of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Government of India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that aims to build capacity for effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The main objectives of the project are:-

- (i) Building the capacity of Government officials in select states and districts.
- (ii) Developing the capacity of citizens and civil society to demand information and creating awareness.
- (iii) Establishing institutional mechanism for improved citizen-state interface; and
- (iv) Undertaking research, documentation, communications etc. by sharing best practices.

The project presently is being implemented in 12 States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal) with two selected Districts in each State.

[English]

Revised One India Plan by MTNL

1070. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has introduced the revised 'One India Plan' for landline, WLL and mobile telephone users of Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of subscribers at present with MTNL including One India Plan;

(d) whether subscribers are facing difficulties in Sanchar Haat to get them enrolled under this new plan;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the target fixed by MTNL regarding revenue generation and subscribers to its net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has introduced revised One India Plan in Landline and WLL (Fixed). There is no change in rental of One India Plan for Mobile users.

(b) The monthly rental of One India Plan has been reduced from Rs. 299/- to 180/- with no free calls for landline and WLL (Fixed) users.

(c) In MTNL, the total number of all types of subscribers including One India Plan as on 31.10.2006 is 61,70,954.

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) MTNL has fixed the target of gross revenue generation of Rs. 5582.52 crores and an increase of 10 lakhs of all types of subscribers to its net.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in Chhattisgarh

1071. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living below poverty line in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government to Chhattisgarh under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana during the financial year 2005-06, till date and the various schemes/projects implemented thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) On the basis of unit level data of 55th Round (1999-2000) of National Sample Survey Organization relating to household consumption expenditure, the number of people living below poverty line during 1999-2000 in Chhattisgarh was 89.52 lakh.

(b) An amount to Rs. 120.00 crore was allocated to the State Government for the eight districts covered under the RSVY during each of the financial year 2005-06 and

2006-07 respectively. Against these allocations an amount of Rs. 90.00 crore and an amount of Rs. 52.50 crore have been released to the State Governments during 2005-06 and 2006-07 till date, respectively. The various schemes/projects being implemented in the State relate to agriculture, irrigation, connectivity, health, livelihood promotion, rural electrification etc.

[English]

Kendriya Bhandar in Tamil Nadu

1072. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Bhandars in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) whether there is a long pending demand to open more Kendriya Bhandars in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by Union Government in this regard; and

(d) 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) Kendriya Bhandar has set up nine branch stores in Tamil Nadu — three in Chennai, two in Trichy, three in Coimbatore and one in Madurai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Mobile Tower in Maharashtra

1073. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up mobile tower in Patan Tehsil of Satara District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of villages likely to be benefited alongwith the coverage area; and

(c) the time by which the tower would be functional?

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

(b) and (c) Details of additional Mobile base stations planned in the Patan Tehsil of Maharashtra alongwith name of the villages likely to be benefited is given below. These stations are expected to be commissioned during next year progressively depending upon timely availability of sit/land and electrical connections. Normally, coverage area of Mobile base tower varies from 2 Km. to 6 Km. depending upon height of antenna and the terrain surrounding the tower/base station.

Sl.No.	No. of Mobile Base Station (Tower) additionally planned in Patan Tehsil of Satara District	Villages likely to be covered
1.	Adhul-Navarashta	Adhul Navrashta Nade
2.	Koyanagar	Koyanagar, Rasati, Heiwak
3.	Marul Haveli (Gandhi Tekadi)	Marul Haveli, Papatde, Bahute
4.	Kumbhagaon	Kumbhagaon, Talmawale, Manewadi
5.	Chaphal	Chaphal, Shiganwadi, Derwan

Conversion of Sacred Pond Into Commercial Plaza

1074. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Evacuee Property Trust Board (EPTB), the government body maintaining properties of minorities in Pakistan plans to convert a pond which had been used by Hindus since partition as a sacred place to bathe, into a commercial plaza;

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

(c) whether any protest has been lodged by India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) 'The Daily Times' a Pakistani newspaper, reported on 18 October 2006 that the Evacuee Property Trust Board of Pakistan (EPTB) had invited applications from contractors to construct a 12-storey building at a site in Lahore that members of the local Hindu community used in the past for ceremonial bathing. The same report, however, also quoted the Chairman of EPTB as saying that the applications had been invited "only to solicit the constructors" interest. We do not intend to really build over the asnan ghat."

(c) and (d) The maintenance of temples in Pakistan is the responsibility of Pakistani authorities. In pursuit of international and bilateral cooperation, India continues to strive, together with other countries that no damage is caused to religious places abroad.

[*Translation*]

Contaminated Polio Vaccines

1075. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohania Ganj):
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Polio Vaccines used in Polio eradication programme in the country have been found contaminated as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated November 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the States in which such vaccines were distributed;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry 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) The Government of Punjab reported regarding the presence of an insect like substance in one vial of Oral Polio Vaccine of Batch No.K-042 manufactured by M/s Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The vial was then tested by Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli and an 'insect-like foreign material' was confirmed.

(b) Out of all the Oral Polio Vaccines supplied to different parts of the country during the current year for Routine Immunization, only one vial was found to be contaminated. The entire Batch corresponding to this vial was supplied to the State of Punjab.

(c) and (d) Immediately thereafter, the State of Punjab was informed to stop the case of the Vaccines from the Batch No.K-042 and the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) was requested to investigate the matter.

The five (5) sealed vials of the same Batch were sent to Central Drug Laboratory (CDL), Kasauli for testing and were found to be satisfactory.

Post Offices in Rural Areas of Jharkhand

1076. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of post offices operating in rural areas of Jharkhand as on date;

(b) the number of villages having no post offices, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up post offices in these villages and the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Out of total 3091 post offices of Jharkhand, 2819 post offices are operating in rural areas.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of the number of villages having no post offices are given the enclosed statement-I.

Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms are given in the enclosed statement-II. Therefore, post offices can be opened only in those villages where these norms are fulfilled.

In the first two years of the 10th Five Year Plan, 440 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices were opened in villages in the country, against Plan targets. However, in consonance with the policy directives of the 10th Plan regarding rationalization of the postal network, no Plan targets are being allotted for opening of new post offices since 2004-05. Therefore, if justification for opening a Post Office is found, it can now be opened only by relocation of an existing post office, which is no longer justified, as per departmental norms in its present location.

Statement I

Circle wise information regarding villages with and without Post office as on 31-3-2005

Sl.No.	Circles	Total No. of villages (Inhabited)	No. of villages with PO	No. of villages without PO
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	15015	11571
2.	Assam	26247	3708	22539
3.	Bihar	38475	8622	29853
4.	Chhattisgarh	19720	2929	16791
5.	Delhi	165	81	84

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	18066	8121	9945
	Daman and Diu	23	13	10
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	38	32
7.	Haryana	6759	2329	4430
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	2658	14837
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6476	1687	4789
10.	Jharkhand	22745	2777	19968
11.	Karnataka	27575	8362	19213
12.	Kerala	1453	1453	0
	Lakshadweep	10	10	0
	Mahe (Pondicherry)	0	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51808	7471	44337
14.	Maharashtra	41068	16125	24943
	Goa	351	215	136
15.	North East			
	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	303	3346
	Manipur	2391	644	1747
	Meghalaya	1216	299	917
	Mizoram	699	405	294
	Nagaland	1216	299	917
	Tripura	856	659	197
16.	Orissa	46989	7572	39417
17.	Punjab	12278	3418	8860
	Chandigarh	25	8	17
18.	Rajasthan	37889	9679	28210
19.	Tamil Nadu	16742	10424	6318
	Pondicherry	292	59	233
20.	Uttaranchal	15761	2496	13265
21.	Uttar Pradesh	105843	15778	90065

1	2	3	4	5
22.	West Bengal	37910	7639	30271
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	504	89	415
	Sikkim	447	197	250
	Total	589799	141582	448217

Statement II

Level of access promised and norms for opening and retention of post offices

* *Population and Distance Norms*

- Urban area — Population > 20 lakhs, 1.5 kms distance from nearest post office
- Urban area — Population upto 20 lakhs, 2 kms distance from nearest post office
- Normal rural area — Population 3000, 3 kms distance from nearest post office
- Hilly, tribal, desert areas — Population 500 for individual village and 1000 for group of villages, 3 kms distance from nearest post office

* *Income Norms for opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices*

- Normal Rural areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 2400 per annum
- Tribal and hilly areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 4800 per annum
- Urban areas — Initially self-supporting, profit of 5% after one year

* *Income norms for Branch Post Offices*

- Normal rural areas — percentage of income to cost $33\frac{1}{3}\%$, i.e. subsidy of $66\frac{2}{3}\%$
- Hilly, tribal, desert areas — percentage of income to cost 15%, i.e. subsidy of 85%.

[English]

Report on Super Speciality Hospitals

1078. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been completed for the proposed six AIIMS type super speciality hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the construction of hospitals is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A Prototype Architectural design has been selected through Global Open Competitive bid. This is being considered for development as a Concept Plan for the six AIIMS-like institutions. Pre-construction survey (geo-technical, topographical & hydrological), Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study at the six sites have been started. The bids for Project Consultant were found non responsive and the process has to be restarted. The process for selection of Project Consultant is being re-worked and the proposed model of execution has also been finalized. DPRs would be prepared by the selected Project Consultant.

The construction of the hospitals is likely to begin by end of 2007.

Policy Initiatives for Promotion of Sports/Games

1079. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy initiatives taken or being taken by the Government of the promotion of sports and games in the country;

(b) the details of sports talents noticed as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for development of sports and sports related infrastructural facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The promotion of Sports is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments and Sports Federations. However, Government of India, through its own schemes and schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in the promotion of sports.

Towards this end, the Government of India runs following schemes to boost sports in the country:

1. Scheme relating to Incentives for the Promotion of Sports Activities.

The Scheme has the following five components:

- (a) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons
- (b) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools
- (c) Rural Sports Programme
- (d) Sports Scholarship Scheme
- (e) National Sports Development Fund

2. Schemes relating to Awards:

These include:

- (i) (a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards
- (b) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches
- (c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the best University.
- (ii) Arjuna Awards
- (iii) Dronacharya Awards
- (iv) Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games
3. National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson.
4. National Sports Championship for women

5. Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

6. Talent Search & Training

In addition, the Sports Authority of India implements the following sports promotion schemes in the country:-

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
4. Special Area Games Centres (SAG)
5. Centres of Excellence (COX).

Sportspersons who have excelled at the international level in prestigious events like the Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth Games and World Championships were benefited from the above schemes of the Government as well as through of SAI. Sportspersons like Lt. Col. R.V.S. Rathore, Anju Bobby George, Abhinav Bindra, Anjali Bhagwat, Gagan Narang, Samresh Jung and Pankaj Advani were assisted and provided financial and technical support both within the country and abroad.

Till 31st March, 2005, the Ministry was providing assistance to State Governments etc. for creation of sports facilities based on specific proposals received from time to time as per the guidelines for the scheme of Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructures. However, w.e.f. 1st April 2005 the scheme was transferred to the State Sector. No fresh projects are, therefore, being funded by the Government of India, but funds to the extent of committed liabilities for the ongoing approved projects would be given only during the remaining period of X Five Year Plan. However, in view of the shortage of sports infrastructure, particularly in the rural areas, the Ministry is considering launching of a Scheme, 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with the objective of providing access to large sections of the youths and children to organized games and sports, both as an activity integral to the development of the youth, and to widen the catchment for scouting and nurturing talent and improving performance in competitive sports at the National and International levels. Discussions regarding the Scheme are underway with the State Governments and other stake-holders concerned.

Setting up of Community Hospitals/CHCs/PHCs

1080. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government civil hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres proposed to be set up in the country particularly in Karnataka during the next five years;

(b) whether the places have been identified in the State for setting up of these hospitals and health centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are set up by the concerned State/UT as per the need of the population, and based on current population norm which is 30,000 per plain areas and 20,000 for hilly/tribal/difficult areas in case of PHCs and 1,20,000 for plain areas and 80,000 for hilly/tribal/difficult areas in case of CHCs. As on September 2005, there are 1681 PHCs and 254 CHCs in the State of Karnataka. Further expansion of the health system will as per the Programme Implementation Plan of the State under the National Rural Health Mission.

Setting up of Eye Banks

1081. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of eye banks located in various parts of the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more such eye banks in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to Eye Bank Association of India there are 453 Eye Banks in various States/UTs in the country. The location wise details are as follows:

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of Eye Banks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74
2.	Tamil Nadu	13
3.	Karnataka	41
4.	Pondicherry	4
5.	Delhi	11
6.	Chandigarh	7
7.	Punjab	23
8.	Rajasthan	21
9.	Haryana	14
10.	Gujarat	33
11.	Maharashtra	82
12.	Uttar Pradesh	36
13.	Madhya Pradesh	28
14.	West Bengal	29
15.	Orissa	4
16.	Assam	3
17.	Bihar	8
18.	Kerala	22
Total		453

(b) to (d) There is a provision for setting up 25 Eye Banks in States/UTs including Tamil Nadu under National Programme for Control of Blindness during the financial year 2006-07 (up to March, 2007).

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephone Connection

1082. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken in transfer of telephone from one telephone exchange to another telephone exchange;

(b) whether the rules and the time required to be observed in case of transfer of telephones are not being complied with;

(c) if so, the number of such cases identified in Delhi during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The normal time taken in transfer of telephone from one telephone exchange to another telephone exchange for technically feasible cases is as follows:

- (i) Within 3 days from the customer's request within same Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA)
- (ii) Within 5 days from the customer's request within same Secondary Switching Area (SSA).
- (iii) Within 30 days from the customer's request in case of All India Transfer.

(b) The rules and time limits in this regard are followed. Sometimes, delays occur due to the following reasons:-

- (i) Subscriber's own request
- (ii) Area being technically non-feasible
- (iii) Landlord objecting to installation of telephone for the tenant.

In MTNL, Delhi during October, 2006, 1973 out of 2130 requests of shift (i.e. 93.06%) have been completed within three days.

(c) No, such case except for reasons mentioned at (b) above has been identified in Delhi during last two years.

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

Foreign Secretary Visiting Offices of Political Parties

1083. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Foreign Secretary on being appointed to that post visits offices of political parties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the names of the offices of political parties visited by the present Foreign Secretary immediately after his appointment;

(d) whether protocol was followed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (f) Foreign Secretary plays an important role in formulation and implementation of foreign policy. In performance of these duties, he meets leaders of various political parties, Members of Parliament, other high dignitaries and members of civil society in India and abroad to seek their views and explain government's view point.

The present Foreign Secretary continued the above practice and visited the leaders of the CPI(M), who are an important part of the UPA alliance, the BJP, the main opposition party and others.

[English]

Removal of Approved Hospitals

1084. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of CGHS approved Private Hospitals providing medical facilities to CGHS beneficiaries during emergent conditions have been removed from the list of approved hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the Hospitals in NCR which have remained on the approved list where CGHS beneficiaries can have their treatment in emergent condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In response to the tender floated by the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare in 2004, applications from Private Hospitals/diagnostic centres for empanelment under CGHS for extending health services to CGHS beneficiaries were received and processed in the Ministry. The charges for consultations and other facilities have been fixed based on the rates quoted by different private hospitals/diagnostic centres. A revised package rates based on the lowest rates quoted by the applicants have been made effective from 1st November, 2006.

A few of the private hospitals that were empanelled earlier did not accept the rates offered to them and have decided to opt out of the CGHS empanelment. The procedure for impanelment is now a continuous process and any private hospital/diagnostic centre \fulfilling the conditions can apply at any time for empanelment.

(c) In emergency condition, CGHS beneficiary can go to any nearest hospital for treatment.

[Translation]

Haj Pilgrimage

1085. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private tour operators who are allowed to operate the Haj pilgrimage in the country;

(b) the names of tour operators whose quota has been increased for the current year;

(c) whether quota of Haj pilgrims has been increased;

(d) if so, whether the quota of persons going on international passport has also been increased;

(e) if so, the number of Haj pilgrims who are expected to undertake the pilgrimage during the current year, State-wise; and

(f) the arrangements made for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) A list containing names of the Private Tour Operators who are allowed to operate for Haj 2006-II given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Quota to the repeat Private Tour Operators has been maintained at the level of last quota allotted to

them. No quota has been increased for the Tour Operators for the current year i.e. Haj 2006-II.

(c) Yes. Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided an additional quota of 10,000 for Indian Haj Pilgrims for Haj 2006-II only.

(d) No.

(e) A Statement-II indicating original quota and number of pilgrims finally proceeded on Haj pilgrimage State-wise during Haj 2006 through the Haj Committee of India is enclosed.

(f) The Government is making arrangements to facilitate the transportation to Saudi Arabia of the 110,000 pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India and provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. In addition to assistance to be provided by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, the Government is deploying 506 India-based officers including Doctors, Paramedics, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants in addition to around 600 locally recruited employees to look after the welfare of the pilgrims. 11 branch dispensaries and one hospital will be set up at Makkah to provide round the clock medical assistance to the pilgrims during the Haj period. Similarly, five branch dispensaries-cum-Haj offices and one main dispensary will be set up at Madina. During this year medicines worth Rs. 1.25 crores are being provided for the pilgrims.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Private Tour Operator
1	2
	MUMBAI ASSOCIATION
1.	Muslim Tour Corporation, Mumbai(1)
2.	Cosmic Travel & Tours, Mumbai(2)
3.	Bakhla Tours & Travels, Mumbai(3)
4.	Mirza Tour & Travel, Lucknow(4)
5.	<i>Merchant Tour Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(5)</i>
6.	Al-Haafiz Tours & Travels, Dhule(6)
7.	Aman Tours & Travels, Anand(7)

1.	2
8.	MK Travels, Mumbai(8)
9.	Al-Akbar Tours, Mumbai(9)
10.	Khadim Tours & Travels, Mumbai(10)
11.	<i>Al-Infan Tours & Travels, Mumbai(11)</i>
12.	Regal Tour Service, Mumbai(12)
13.	Arafat Travel Services, Thane(14)
14.	Aria Tours & Travels, Mumbai(15)
15.	Al Burhan Tours & Travels, Burhanpur(16)
16.	<i>Marshal Travels, Mumbai(17)</i>
17.	Makkah Haj Corporation, Mumbai(18)
18.	<i>Al-Madni Tours & Travels, Mumbai(19)</i>
19.	<i>Modern Tours & Travels, Kolkata(20)</i>
20.	<i>Al-Multazim Haj Tours & Travels, Thane(21)</i>
21.	<i>Al-Misbah Haj and Umrah Services, Chennai(22)</i>
22.	<i>Suez International, Navsari(23)</i>
23.	Master Travels, Pune(24)
24.	Hajipur Haj Tours, Mumbai(25)
25.	<i>Al-Farid Tours & Travels, Navsari(26)</i>
26.	<i>Tawaf-e-Makkah Tours & Travels, Mumbai(27)</i>
27.	<i>Al-Safa Tour, Pune(28)</i>
28.	<i>Bilal Haj & Umrah Tour & Travels, Bharuch(29)</i>
29.	Momin Haj Umrah Tours, Mumbai(30)
30.	Al-Hamd Haj & Umrah Tours, Mumbai(31)
31.	Al-Kabeer Tours & Travels, Mumbai(32)
32.	<i>Kotwala Tours & Travels, Mumbai(33)</i>
33.	<i>Asian Tours & Travels, Mumbai(34)</i>
34.	Darvesh Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(35)
35.	Skyship International Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(36)
36.	Tawakkal Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(37)

1	2
37.	Al-Aksha Tour & Travels, Ahmedabad(38)
38.	Dayar-e-Habib Tours & Travels, Mumbai(39)
39.	Gujrat Haj Tours, Ahmedabad(41)
40.	Kaazi Sarkar Travels, Nemuch(42)
41.	Surat Haj Tours, Surat(43)
42.	Darul-Haram Tours & Travels, Mumbai(44)
43.	Ikram Haj Corporation, Dongri(45)
44.	Dayar-e-Haram Tours & Travels, Mumbai(46)
45.	Al Umair Tours & Travels, Thane(48)
46.	<i>Labbaik Tour & Travels, Mumbai(49)</i>
47.	<i>Quadri Haj Service, Jabalpur(50)</i>
48.	Molvi Haj & Umrah Tours & Travels, Bharuch(51)
49.	<i>Al-Hijaz Tours & Travels, Bharuch(52)</i>
50.	<i>Avliya Haj Tour, Indore(53)</i>
51.	Tawakkal Tours, Baroda(56)
52.	<i>Masoom Tours & Travels, Bharuch(57)</i>
53.	<i>Al-Jamil Haj Tour, Mumbai(58)</i>
54.	<i>M.K. Haj & Umrah Travels, Kolkata(60)</i>
55.	Adenwala Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(61)
56.	<i>Al-Aquib Travel Service, Thane(62)</i>
57.	<i>Taj Tours & Travels, Hooghly+B42(63)</i>
58.	Mukhlis Haj & Umrah Tour, Thane(64)
59.	Multazim Haj Corporation, Thane(66)
60.	<i>Welcome Tours & Travels, Mumbai(69)</i>
61.	<i>Al-Habeeb Tours, Mumbai(71)</i>
62.	<i>Al-Zoabi International, Mumbai(72)</i>
63.	<i>Al-Minar Tours & Travels, Himmat Nagar(73)</i>
64.	<i>Al Mansur Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(75)</i>
65.	Zam Zam Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(76)

1	2
66.	<i>Mohammedia Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(77)</i>
67.	Hazrat Khwaja Garib Nawaz Haj Tour, Ahmedabad(79)
68.	Al-Madeena Haj Umrah Tours, Nashik(83)
69.	Indian Haj Corporation, Thane(84)
70.	Mariyam Haj Tours, Indore(84)
71.	<i>Mateen Tours & Travel, Mumbai(86)</i>
72.	<i>Al-Hussam India Hajj & Umra, Kochi(87)</i>
73.	Rehbar Tours & Travels, Mumbai(88)
74.	<i>Saudi Tours & Travels, Mumbai(89)</i>
75.	Al-Hussam Travel & Tours India (P) Ltd., Chennai(91)
76.	Millath Haj Service, Chennai(92)
77.	Al Hidayat Tours & Travels, Mumbai(93)
78.	<i>Heena Travel Service, Lucknow(94)</i>
79.	<i>Al-Yaseen Tours & Travels, Hyderabad(95)</i>
80.	Alban Haj Umrah Service, Cochin(96)
81.	The Vafadar Tour, Sabarkantha(97)
82.	Relief Travels & Tours, Godhra(99)
83.	<i>Shaheen Haj Tour & Travels, Bareilly(100)</i>
84.	Al-Akram Haj Tours, Mumbai(101)
85.	Syedina Tours & Travels, Bangalore(103)
86.	Alton Travels & Cargo, Hyderabad(104)
87.	Travel House, Bhopal(105)
88.	Al-Hira Tours & Travels, Hyderabad(106)
89.	Hamdaan Travel Services, Kolkata(107)
90.	<i>Al-Mehdi Tours, Mumbai(108)</i>
91.	<i>Arfat Haj Tours, Viramgam(109)</i>
92.	<i>Sarkar Travels, Bhitwara(110)</i>

1	2
93.	<i>As-Seerat Tours, Mumbai(111)</i>
94.	Raza Tours & Travels, Bhitwara(112)
95.	Jigar Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(113)
96.	<i>Al-Faruqi Haj Umrah Tours-Idar, Dist. S.K.(114)</i>
97.	Madani Travels, Varanasi(116)
98.	<i>Fly International, Mumbai(117)</i>
99.	<i>Badsha Tours & Travels, Mumbai(118)</i>
100.	<i>Alif Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(119)</i>
101.	Bismillah Haj Tours & Travels, Pune(121)
102.	Dheen Haj Service, Chennai(123)
103.	<i>Al-Safa Haj Service, Pudukkottai(124)</i>
104.	Al-Noor Haj Service, Thanjavur(126)
105.	Sharief Tours & Travels, Hyderabad(127)
106.	Sanjar Travels, Ahmedabad(128)
107.	<i>Salamath Haj Service, Nagai(130)</i>
108.	<i>Golden Travels, Hyderabad(131)</i>
109.	<i>Al-Uqba Tours & Travels, Kanpur(132)</i>
110.	Alliance International Tours & Travels, Mumbai(133)
111.	<i>Atlas Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(134)</i>
112.	Al-Khalid Tours & Travels, Mumbai(135)
113.	<i>Haj Tours Corporation, Indore(136)</i>
114.	<i>Air Flot Travels, Mumbai(137)</i>
115.	<i>Al Hamza Travels, Mumbai(138)</i>
116.	<i>Safar Haj Tours, Ahmedabad(139)</i>
117.	<i>Al Hasan Travels, Mumbai(140)</i>
118.	<i>Sha Haj Service, Coimbatore(141)</i>
119.	Bakhla International Travels, Mumbai(141)
120.	<i>Madina Tours & Travels, Hyderabad(143)</i>

1	2
121.	<i>S.Y.S Hajj Cell, Kozhikode(145)</i>
122.	<i>Al-Amanath Haj Service India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai(146)</i>
123.	<i>G.B. Tours & Travels, Lucknow(147)</i>
124.	<i>J.S. Tours & Travels, Bangalore(148)</i>
125.	<i>Tashkent Tours & Travels, Surat(149)</i>
126.	<i>P.K.M. Travels, Punnathala(150)</i>
127.	<i>Al-Attar Haj Corporation, Mumbai(151)</i>
128.	<i>Noble Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(152)</i>
129.	<i>Social Tours & Travels(Almabrook Haj Group), Mallapuram(153)</i>
130.	<i>As-Safa Haj Tours, Navsari(154)</i>
131.	<i>Labbaik Haj Tours & Travels, Navsari(155)</i>
132.	<i>Al Ameen Tours & Travels, Kanpur(157)</i>
133.	<i>Zam Zam Haj Tours & Travels, Mumbai(158)</i>
134.	<i>Classic Tours & Travels, Mumbai(160)</i>
135.	<i>Azeem Tours & Travels, Mumbai(161)</i>
136.	<i>Anam Tours & Travels, DL(162)</i>
137.	<i>Asfahan Tours & Travels, Mumbai(163)</i>
138.	<i>Al-Ameen Haj Corporation, Raigad(164)</i>
139.	<i>Al-Ikhlās Haj Corporation, Raigad(165)</i>
140.	<i>Tamboli Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Ahmednagar(166)</i>
141.	<i>Al-Falah Travels & Hajj Group, Malappuram(168)</i>
142.	<i>Poona Tours & Travels, Pune(169)</i>
143.	<i>Mabrook Hajj Group, Malappuram(171)</i>
144.	<i>Ashraf Haj Umrah Tours & Travels, Amravati(172)</i>
145.	<i>Arabian Tours and Travels, Mumbai(173)</i>
146.	<i>Kolhapur Haj Corporation, Kolhapur(174)</i>

1	2
147.	<i>Al-Salam Haj-o-Umrah Tours, Akola(175)</i>
148.	<i>Sagar Tours & Travels, Gorakhpur(179)</i>
149.	<i>Faiz Travels, Meerut(180)</i>
150.	<i>Al-Hind Tours & Travels (P) Ltd., Calicut(182)</i>
151.	<i>Marhaba Haj Umrah Tours, Mumbai(184)</i>
152.	<i>As Saud Tour, Navsari(185)</i>
153.	<i>Kerala Islam Haj & Umrah Service, Calicut(186)</i>
154.	<i>Fathimagani Haj Service, Ramanathpuram(188)</i>
155.	<i>Haadi Tour Haj & Umrah, Malegaon(189)</i>
156.	<i>Al-Ansar Haj & Umra Organiser, Mumbai(190)</i>
157.	<i>Al Husami Haj & Umrah Tour, Thane(191)</i>
158.	<i>Al-Khizer Tours, Vadodara(192)</i>
159.	<i>Reliabale Haj Umrah Tours, Thane(194)</i>
160.	<i>Shafi Haj & Umra Tours, Ahmednagar(195)</i>
161.	<i>Al Irshad Haj Group, Palakkad(197)</i>
162.	<i>Kalanthar Haj Travels, Pudukkottai(197)</i>
163.	<i>Bakkah Haj Umrah Service, Anakkayam(200)</i>
164.	<i>Rumani Enterprises, Mumbai(203)</i>
165.	<i>Al-Waha Haj Tours, Mumbai(204)</i>
166.	<i>Muqaddas Haj Corporation, Vasai(205)</i>
167.	<i>Al-Quba Tours & Travels, Pune(206)</i>
168.	<i>Malabar Haj Group, Malappuram(208)</i>
169.	<i>Shukriya Travels, Mumbai(209)</i>
170.	<i>Hijra Haj Group, Malappuram(210)</i>
171.	<i>Mahdi Tours & Travels, Mumbai(211)</i>
172.	<i>Al-Hashim Haj Tours, Ahmedabad(213)</i>
173.	<i>Khandesh Haj Corporation, Jalgaon(214)</i>
174.	<i>Aman Tourism, Kolhapur(217)</i>

1	2
175.	Richway Tours & Travels, Coimbatore(218)
176.	Khwaja Garib Nawaz Tours & Travels, Ahmedabad(219)
177.	<i>Multazam Tours Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(220)</i>
178.	<i>Jannat Tours & Travels, Faizabad(221)</i>
179.	<i>Fathil Group Tours & Travels, Kannur(222)</i>
180.	Ansaar Tours & Travels, Pune(223)
181.	Royell Travel & Cargo Service, Hyderabad(224)
182.	<i>Imaan International, Mumbai(225)</i>
183.	Meera International Tours & Travels, Ahmednagar(226)
184.	<i>Arafath Haj Group, Mallappuram(227)</i>
185.	<i>Meezab-e-Rehmat Haj Umrah, Nashik(228)</i>
186.	<i>Tawakkal Tourism Corporation, Nagpur(229)</i>
187.	<i>Al-Arafat Haj & Umrah Tours, Nagpur(231)</i>
188.	Qiblah Haj Umrah Services, Mumbai(232)
189.	Metro Tours & Travels, Cuttack(233)
190.	<i>Marhaba Muqaddas Umrah Haj Tours, Mumbai(234)</i>
191.	Roshan Haj Umrah Tours & Travels, Thane(235)
192.	<i>Akola Haj Tours, Akola(237)</i>
193.	<i>Akbar Travels of India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(238)</i>
194.	<i>Arabia Tours & Travels, Pune(239)</i>
195.	Razak & Sons, Ahmedabad(240)
196.	<i>Benzy Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai(241)</i>
197.	<i>Afzal Haj Tour & Travels (P)Ltd., Chennai(242)</i>
198.	<i>Creative Tours & Travels (India), Mumbai(243)</i>
199.	Al-Buraque Tours & Travels, Kolkata(244)
200.	<i>Delta Tours and Travels, Mumbai(245)</i>

1	2
201.	Al-Madeena Haj Service, Chennai(247)
202.	<i>Al-Haramine Haj Service (P) Ltd., Chennai(248)</i>
203.	Moulana Haj Servie, Chennai(249)
204.	<i>Creative Enterprises, Mumbai(250)</i>
205.	Al-Meraj Tours & Travels, Jodhpur(251)
206.	Saaheb Haj Service, Gulbarga(253)
207.	Kadri Haj & Umra Tour Organisers, Ahmednagar(254)
208.	<i>Al-Farooq Hajj Service, Feroke(256)</i>
209.	<i>Al-Multazim Haj & Umrah Services, Mumbai(259)</i>
210.	Akbari Tours, Ahmedabad(262)
211.	<i>Ghouse Tours & Travels, Bellary(263)</i>
212.	Al Rifai Hajj Umra Service, Palakkad(264)
213.	<i>Hajir Tours & Travels, Secunderabad(266)</i>
214.	Baitullah Tours International, Bangalore(267)
215.	<i>As Saffa Tours & Travels, Mumbai(268)</i>
216.	<i>Al-Jamih Hajj Group, Mallapuram(269)</i>
217.	<i>Maulana Tours Corporation, Thane(272)</i>
218.	<i>Airtravel Enterprises India Ltd., Trivandrum(275)</i>
219.	<i>Rabita Haj Umrah Tours, Aurangabad(276)</i>
220.	Al-Hudha Haj Service Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore(277)
221.	Al-Harmin Hajj Umra Travels, Kollam(278)
222.	<i>The Great India Tour Co. Pvt. Ltd., Trivandrum(279)</i>
223.	Huda Tour & Travels, Mumbai(281)
224.	Altima Tours & Travels (P) Ltd., Trivandrum(282)
225.	<i>Al-Hijrah Travels & Tour, Mumbai(284)</i>

1	2
226.	Chisti Travel & Tour, Kanpur(286)
227.	Zam Zam Haj Service, Calicut(287)
228.	<i>Aslam Haj Travel & Tours, Malappuram(288)</i>
229.	<i>Ummulkhura Hajj Service, Malappuram(289)</i>
230.	Al-Aqsa Tours & Travels, Kolkata(291)
231.	<i>Al-Junaid Haj Umra Co., Meerut(292)</i>
232.	Akbar Travel and Tours, Malappuram(294)
233.	<i>Al Hidayah Hajj Service, Palakkad(295)</i>
234.	Kolkata Tours & Travels (I) Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata(296)
235.	<i>M.G. Tours & Travels, Barasat(297)</i>
236.	<i>S.Y.S. Haj Group, Malappuram(298)</i>
237.	<i>Madina Haj Tours & Travels Agency, Bongaigaon(299)</i>
238.	Al-amal Haj Umra Service, Ernakulam(300)
239.	<i>Al-Fathah Haj Service (P) Ltd., Kayalpatnam(303)</i>
240.	<i>A.R.K. Enterprises Travel Agency, Hyderabad(306)</i>
241.	<i>Al-Khuddam Haj & Umrah Services, Srinagar(308)</i>
242.	Ruby Tours & Travels, Pune(309)
243.	Faisal Tours & Travels, Connought Place(310)
244.	<i>Bushra Haj Service, Chennai(311)</i>
245.	<i>Najath Khidmathul Hujjaj, Palakkad(312)</i>
246.	Indian Hajj Service Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram(314)
247.	<i>El-Burq Travels, DL(315)</i>
248.	<i>Razzak Enterprises Deccan Haj Group, Hyderabad(316)</i>
249.	<i>Nusrath Hajj Service, Malappuram(319)</i>
250.	<i>Trichy Sunshine Haj Services, Trichy(323)</i>

1	2
	DELHI ASSOCIATION
251.	Ajmeri Tour & Travels, Bhiwara
252.	Ashiyana Tour & Travels, Delhi
253.	A.S. Enterprises, Delhi
254.	Global Tour & Travels, Sri Nagar
255.	Hameedya Tours & Travels, Mumbai
256.	Islamic Tour & Travels, Lucknow
257.	Mehdi Tours & Travels, Lucknow
258.	Samrat Tours & Travels, Jaipur
259.	Sultanjee Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
260.	United Tours & Travels, Allahabad
261.	Hijaz Tours & Travels, Mumbai
262.	United Travels Service, Delhi
263.	AL-Haram Tour & Travels, Roorkee
	INDIVIDUAL
264.	Peerzada Travels, Mumbai
265.	A-1 Tours & Travels, Mumbai
266.	Iftekar Travel Services, Delhi
267.	3N Travel & Tourist Bureau, Mumbai
268.	Kokan Tour Corporation, Mumbai
269.	Nawab Travels Private Limited, Delhi
270.	Al Tawaf Hajj-Umra Travels & Tourism
271.	AL Haramainy Haj Group, Kerala
272.	Ahlan Hajj and Umrah Services, Delhi
273.	Fayz-e-Husayni Trust, Mumbai
274.	<i>Alfiya Tours & Travels</i>
	KARNATAKA ASSOCIATION
275.	Haj Corporation of India, Bangalore
276.	Muqaddas Tours & Travels, Bangalore
277.	Seair Haj Services, Bangalore

1	2	1	2
278.	Al-Syed Tours International, Bangalore	285.	Al-Manasik Tours International, Bangalore
279.	Labbaik Tours & Travels, Bangalore	286.	Al-Rahman Haj Tours & Travels, Bangalore
280.	Karnataka Haj Group, Bangalore	287.	Bismillah Tours & Travels, Bangalore
281.	Tawakkul Tours & Travels, Bangalore	288.	Atteq Haj Tours & Travels, Bangalore
282.	Al-Madina Tours & Travels, Bangalore	289.	Arfath Tours, Hyderabad
283.	Allahu Akbar Tours & Travels, Bangalore	290.	Al-Azam Tours & Travels, Hyderabad
284.	Al-Talyba Tours & Travels, Bangalore	291.	Madni Haj Groups, Gulbarga

Statement II

States	Original Quota	No. of Applications Received	Pilgrims Proceeded
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	21	40	38
Andhra Pradesh	4955	6385	6206
Assam	5967	2150	2026
Bihar	9713	2200	2104
Chandigarh	25	33	33
Chhattisgarh	291	595	580
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	4	4
Daman and Diu	9	14	14
Delhi	1151	3705	2688
Goa	65	34	36
Gujarat	3257	7986	6359
Haryana	867	954	949
Himachal Pradesh	85	61	94
Jammu and Kashmir	4818	9300	9196
Jharkhand	2646	1068	1045
Karnataka	4584	5646	5527

1	2	3	4
Kerala	5577	13002	10742
Lakshadweep	41	231	226
Madhya Pradesh	2724	5276	5297
Maharashtra	7284	11452	11359
Manipur	135	197	191
Orissa	540	432	423
Pondicherry	42	88	85
Punjab	271	258	256
Rajasthan	3396	5611	5522
Tamil Nadu	2461	3900	3812
Tripura	180	25	23
Uttar Pradesh	21800	18800	18389
Uttaranchal	718	1404	1377
West Bengal	14354	3382	3316
Govt. Quota	2000	1947	1743
Total	100000	106180	99660

\$ Including Mehram and without exchange cases.

[English]

Telemedicine Project

1086. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched telemedicine project in some selected districts in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the districts wherein telemedicine project has been launched so far, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to launch telemedicine project in Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar

Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The State-wise list of Districts, where the Telemedicine Project has been launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Department of Information Technology (DIT), respectively, in the country, is placed at enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal or project conceived or running in the Lakhimpur-Kheri District in Uttar Pradesh at present.

Statement**ISRO's Telemedicine Network Established as on 15.11.2006**

- Total No. of hospitals — 184 Hospitals
- No. of Remote/Rural/District Hospitals/Health Centres — 150 (Including 5 Mobile Units)
- No. of Speciality hospitals — 34

Andhra Pradesh — 3 hospitals: Aragonda (Chittoor Dist.) Sriharikota & Hyderabad MNJ (Onconet).

A&N Islands — 4 hospitals: Port Blair-1, Car Nicobar, Kamorta & Campbell Bay.

Bihar — 1 hospital: Ruxol (CMC Network)

West Bengal — 6 hospitals: Kolkata-3 (AHF, SBKM & Ramakrishna), Krishnanagar (Nadia), Malda, Balurghat (West Dinachpur)

Chhattisgarh — 16 hospitals: Raipur, Jagdalpur, Marwahi, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Kankar, Korba, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Janjgir, Baikunthpur, Ambikapur, Jashpur, Kawardha, Mahasamund.

Gujarat — 1 hospital: Ahmedabad (Onconet)

Himachal Pradesh — 1 hospital: Kullu (CMC Network).

Haryana — 2 hospitals — Gohana & Sonapat

Jharkhand — 1 hospital: Ranchi

Jammu & Kashmir — 12 hospitals: Srinagar-2 hospitals (SKIMS & GMC), Leh (Ladakh), Katwa, Jammu, Kupwara, Kargil, Doda, Poonch, Zanskar, Uri, Tangdhar.

Karnataka — 25 hospitals: Bangalore-9 hospitals (NH, NIMHANS, St. Johns, Bowring, BMC, VITM, SN, VIIO, Samatvam) & 2 Mobile hospitals (VIIO & SN), Mysore, Chamaraajanagar,, Sargur, Maddur, Sagar, Chitradurga, Mandya, Tumkur, Sirsi, Karwar, Gadag, Bagalkot, Yadgir, Batgeri (CMC Network)

Kerala — 26 hospitals: Trivandrum-3 hospitals (TMC, RCC, SCTIMS), Kochi-1 hospital & 1 Mobile hospital (AIMS), Pathanamthitta, Pampa, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Pariyaram, Trichur, Alleppey, Mananthavady, Manjeri,

Attappady, Palakad-2 hospitals, Idduki, Ernakulam-2 hospitals, Kollam-2 hospitals, Kannur-2 hospitals, Kanhangad, Kozhencherry.

Lakshadweep Islands — 5 hospitals: Kavaratti, Agati, Amini, Minicoy, Androt Islands.

Madhya Pradesh — 1 hospital: Gwalior (Onconet).

Maharashtra — 4 hospitals: Mumbai (TMC), Chiplun (Ratnagiri), Nagpur, Jalna (CMC Network).

NE States — 21 hospitals:

Assam-4 hospitals Guwahati-2 (GMC & BBRC) & Jorhat, Bazzerechara (CMC Network)

Sikkim-1 hospital Gangtok

Manipur-1 hospital Imphal

Arunachal Pradesh-4 hospitals Itanagar, Naharlagun, Tawang & Pasighat

Nagaland-2 hospitals Mokokchung & Kohima

Meghalaya-1 hospital Shillong

Mizoram-4 hospitals Aizawl, Lunglei, Saifa, Champai

Tripura-4 hospitals Udaipur, Dharmanagar, Kailasahar & Kamalpur

New Delhi — 4 hospitals — AIIMS, Apollo, Fortis, Sir Gangaram

Orissa — 3 Medical college hospitals: Cuttack, Buria & Behrampur.

Punjab — 4 hospitals: Chandigarh (PGIMER), Dausya (Hoshiarpur), Ajnala (Amritsar), Patiala.

Pondicherry — 5 hospitals: Pondicherry-2 (GH & JIPMER), Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam.

Rajasthan — 12 hospitals: Jalawar (Kota), Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Udaipur, Ajmer (2), Sirohi, Bikaner, Nagaur, Banswara, Jodhpur.

Tamilnadu — 12 hospitals: Chennai-3 (Apollo, SRMC & SN) & 1 Mobile, Madurai-4 (2 hospitals & 2 Mobile), Theni-1, Coimbatore-2 with mobile, CMC-Vellore

Uttar Pradesh — 3 hospitals: Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Munshirganj (Sultanpur dist.)

Others — 12 hospitals for Armed Forces

Army: 6 — New Delhi (R&R), Srinagar, Udhampur, Leh, Kargil, Partapur.

Air Force: 5 — Banagalore (Command Hospital), Halwara, Nalia, Jorhat, Jaisalmer.

Navy: 1 — Port Blair — Andamans (IN-IS Dhanavantri)

Mobile Telemedicine Unit Details:

Number of Mobile Telemedicine Units operational: 5 (Five) at the following places:

1. Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai
2. Sankara Nethralaya, Bangalore
3. Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai
4. Project DISHA, Madurai
5. VIIO, Bangalore

Number of Mobile Telemedicine Units in progress: 6 (six) at the following places:

1. Madras Diabetic Research Foundation, Chennai
2. SRMC, Chennai
3. KG Hospital, Coimbatore
4. Manipal Highway Trauma Centre, Bangalore
5. A.V. Dawle Medical Foundation Ambajogai, Beed District, Maharashtra
6. Apollo Telemedicine Network Foundation, Hyderabad

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of districts where Telemedicine project has been launched by DIT
1	2	3
1.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
2.	Delhi	New Delhi

1	2	3
3.	Haryana	Rohtak
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
5.	Kerala	1. Trivandrum 2. Kannur 3. Ernakulam 4. Pathanamthitta 5. Kollam 6. Palakkad 7. Alapuzha 8. Wayanad 9. Kozhikode 10. Malappuram
6.	Mizoram	Aizwal
7.	Orissa	Cuttack
8.	Sikkim	Namichi
9.	Tripura	1. South Tripura 2. North Tripura 3. Dhalai 4. West Tripura
10.	Uttar pradesh	Lucknow
11.	West Bengal	1. Kolkata 2. 24 Paraganas (North) 3. Coochbehar 4. Burdwan 5. Purulia 6. Birbhum 7. Paschim Midnapur 8. Murshidabad

Shifting of Apsara Reactor

1087. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shift the Apsara reactor;

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

(c) the present status of each of the reactors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Government is not proposing to shift the Apsara Reactor. The separation plan identified in March, 2006, as a part of reciprocal actions to open up civil nuclear cooperation between USA and India provides for shifting of the core of Apsara Reactor. A new core would replace the existing core when shifted.

(c) Presently all the Research Reactors at Trombay *viz.*, Apsara, Cirus and Dhruva are in operation and functioning normally. In addition, the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) and Kalpakkam Mini Reactor (KAMINI) at Kalpakkam are also in normal operation.

Study on Indian Women Abroad

1088. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian women working abroad, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to conduct a study regarding their present condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Of the total migrant population of 191 million in the world today, it is estimated that about 49% are women. While precise data on the number of Indian women working abroad is not available, it is estimated that about 44% of migrants from southern Asia are women.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation Policy

1089. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the provision of reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was made in the country alongwith the percentage of the population of this category in the total population of the country at that time;

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the reservation rules for this category by formulating a new reservation policy taken the 2001 Census as the base year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Union Government also proposes to rationalize the system of reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs with a view not to going beyond 50 per cent ceiling; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Reservation for the Scheduled Castes was introduced in 1947 and for the Scheduled Tribes in 1950. As per 1951 Census, the percentage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the total population of the country was 15.05 and 6.31 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) A rationalized system of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs not exceeding 50% is already in existence.

*[English]***Purchase Preference Policy**

1090. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend purchase preference to Kendriya Bhandar on the lines of public sector undertakings since the Government has invested money in its share capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Kendriya Bhandar in violation of its by-laws under Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 has enrolled employees of private sector as its shareholders/members;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether an existing shareholder on retirement from service/death cannot remain its member; and

(g) if so, the action taken to remove such persons from the membership of the Bhandar, before holding the election?

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) Ministry of Finance has proposed a formulation for grant of special dispensation to Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF etc. subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

(d) and (e) Kendriya Bhandar has reported that as on 31.3.2006, there are 82056 individual shareholders of the Society and in view of the substantially large number of shareholders, it is likely to take some time to verify whether the Society has enrolled employees of Private Sector as its shareholders/members.

(f) and (g) As per bye-law 5(iii) of the Society, an existing shareholder, on retirement from service, would become Associate Member. However, he would not be entitled for voting right nor would he be eligible for election

Delegate/Elected Director. As regards membership of the shareholder in the event of his death, the byelaws provide that his nominee or successor may get his (deceased) shares transferred in his name provided he is qualified under the byelaws of the Society or alternatively be paid the value of his share less any amount due from him/her to the Society. All efforts are made, on the basis of available record, to remove the name of shareholders who have retired from the list of the shareholders who are eligible to vote for the election.

*[Translation]***Inclusion of Fast Breeder Reactor in Military List**

1091. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian scientists have suggested that Fast Breeder Reactor be included in the Military list to gather minimum striking capacity;

(b) whether the civil lists are available with the International Atomic Energy Agency for inspection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) To meet our growing energy requirements and keeping in view our limited Uranium and the vast thorium resources, India has evolved a three stage nuclear power programme. The first stage comprises Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors. The second stage envisages Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) based on plutonium recovered from the first stage. This is necessary for rapid expansion of power generation capacity in the second stage and enable exploitation of Thorium on a large scale in the third stage. FBR in the second stage, is therefore integrally linked with the reprocessing of the spent fuel to extract plutonium which intrinsically has strategic implications. To maintain the sovereignty and autonomy of our three stage nuclear energy programme, as also our strategic programme, the Fast Breeder Reactor has been kept out side the civilian domain and is not listed among the civilian facilities in the Separation Plan tabled in Parliament on March 2, 2006.

[English]

Providing Information by UPSC under RTI Act

1092. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has refused to divulge the results of Civil Service Examination sought under the RTI Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it tantamounts to violation of the RTI Act;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government would issue direction to supply the information to the litigant;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the corrective measures 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) No Sir. Result of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2006 was declared on 10.08.2006.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

World Bank Assistance to Health Projects

1093. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the World Bank has assured financial assistance to certain health projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total quantum of financial assistance likely to be given;

(c) whether the Government has given any commitment regarding having a transparent procurement process conforming to the highest standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said assistance would be given?

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

(b) The World Bank and the Government of India have recently signed three Credit Agreements in the Health Sector on 16.10.2006. The three Agreements are for:

(i) The Reproductive and Child Health Project II (RCH-II) for US \$ 360 million.

(ii) Second National Tuberculosis Control Project (TB-II) for US \$ 170 million. and

(iii) Karnataka Health System Development and Reform Project for US \$ 141.83 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India and the World Bank have agreed to a common "Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP)" to ensure competition and transparency in the procurement and timely delivery of quality goods and services under the health services related projects co-financed by the World Bank. The GAAP in essence provides guidelines for various methods of procurement agreed along with steps and thresholds to be followed under each method of procurement, i.e. International Competitive Bidding (ICB), National Competitive Bidding (NCB), Shopping, Director Contracting (DC) for goods and works and Hiring of Consultant Services.

(e) The World Bank assistance will be released on the basis of claims of reimbursement of project expenses as submitted by the Government of India from time to time consequent to the signing of the three Credit Agreements on 16.10.2006.

*[Translation]***Economic Growth Rate**

1094. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate fixed by the Union Government for the next five years;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the action plan prepared for poverty alleviation and infrastructure development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), for consideration of the National Development Council, has proposed the average annual growth rate target to be fixed at 9% for the five years of Eleventh Plan.

(b) and (c) The steps proposed to be taken by the Government for achieving the growth target and the action plan for poverty alleviation and infrastructure development for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period have not been decided.

*[English]***Private Sector in Nuclear Power Generation**

1095. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private sector participation including foreign countries and MNCs in the production of nuclear power;

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

(c) the steps contemplated to provide due security to the nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation in the country is currently under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Adequate security measures for physical protection of the facilities are already in place in all our nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure. The same measures would apply to new power plants.

*[Translation]***TRAI Rules for Broadband Service**

1096. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has introduced new rules to improve the broadband service; and

(b) if so, the main features of these new rules?

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

(b) TRAI has issued the Quality of Service of Broadband Service Regulations 2006 to prescribe the Quality of Service norms to be achieved by Broadband Service Providers. This regulation will come into force w.e.f. 1st January, 2007. The Regulation prescribes benchmarks for following Quality of Service (QoS) parameters:

- Service Provisioning/Activation Time.
- Fault Repair/Restoration Time.
- Billing Performance.
- Response time to the customer for assistance.
- Bandwidth Utilization/Throughput.
- Service Availability/Uptime.
- Packet Loss.
- Network Latency.
- Customer perception of Services.

*[English]***Pesticide Level in Cold Drinks**

1097. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some soft drink companies in their advertisements in various newspapers claimed that pesticide levels in their products are within permissible limits and are not injurious to health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to verify their claim;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Pepsico and Coca Cola in their advertisements have claimed that their products meet all Indian as well as international standards.

(c) to (e) A total of 155 soft drink samples were tested by Central Food Labs at Kolkata, Mysore, Pune as well as State Food Lab, Gujarat between July, 2006 to September, 2006 and as per reports received from testing laboratories pesticide residues were found below the limits specified for bottled drinking water in all tested samples.

HIV Prevalence in Infants

1098. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is likely to constitute Coordination Committee to interact with State Governments to look into the cases of HIV prevalence in infants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

Danger of Unsafe Sex

1099. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unsafe sex is the second most important cause of illness and death in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the alarming trend of unsafe sex in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(c) In order to check any scope of getting sexually transmitted infections on account of unsafe sex, National AIDS Control Organisation is promoting the 'A,B,C' strategy i.e. 'Abstinence, Be Faithful and Condom Use'. The Condom use among high-risk population is promoted through Targeted Intervention Projects. The accessibility and availability of condoms which is the only prophylaxis is being promoted through the social marketing approach.

Post Offices in Rural Areas of West Bengal

1100. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices operating in West Bengal;

(b) whether all the villages in the State have Post Office facilities;

(c) if not, the number of villages in the State not having any type of Post Office facilities; and

(d) the steps, if any, contemplated by Government for augmenting postal facilities in the State of cover cent per cent villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices operating in West Bengal is 9062.

(b) Yes, Sir. All the villages in the State have been provided Post Office facilities.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Ban on Indian Companies by U.S.

1101. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken/proposes to take steps for the rescue of the Indian companies banned by America on the issue of violation of international export laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The US Government on 27 December 2005 announced sanctions on two Indian companies and on 4th August 2006 on another two Indian companies under their national law. The matter has been taken up with the US Government.

[English]

Development of Bangalore Metropolitan Region

1102. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has proposed to the Union Government development of Bangalore Metropolitan Region-Satellite Town Ring Road (BMR-STRR) and BMR Intermediate Ring Road (BMR-IRR) under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VII;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka has requested to include the construction of Satellite Town Ring Road (283 km) and intermediate Ring Road (178 km) around Bangalore city costing Rs. 1150 crore and Rs. 750 crore respectively under National Highway Development Project Phase-VII.

(c) National Highways Authority of India (NHA) have been asked to prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Ring Road around Bangalore City on most suited alignments.

[Translation]

Setting up of Consumer Service Centres

1103. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue earned by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has increased

consequent upon several concessions offered by them and due to implementation of One India Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subscribers under One India Plan do not have the option of changing over to other new plan;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set up consumer service centres and offer facilities to the mobile and land line subscribers under One India Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) For BSNL, during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, there is overall increase in total revenue earned (collected) by BSNL i.e. Rs. 33450 crore and Rs. 36139 crore respectively due to introduction of various tariff plans including One India Plan and various concession given to the customers.

For MTNL, as on 31.10.06, 63174 number of subscribers have opted for One India Plan and the approximate monthly revenue earned from these subscribers is Rs. 5.05 crores.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The subscribers under One India Plan do have the option of changing over to other new plan.

(e) In BSNL, a total number of 3778 customer service centres are operational in the field units, providing all solutions to the problems/requests of the subscribers, including the request for change of plan to One India, at one place.

One India Plan is one of the tariff plans of landline and mobile customers of MTNL. Facilities of Call Centres/ Sanchar Haats in Delhi and Quick Customer Service Centre (QCSC) in Mumbai are available for registration of all type of services including One India Plan for the existing/prospective customers.

[English]

Alleged Incursions of Chinese Soldiers

1104. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese soldiers are allegedly making incursions into new stretches in the North-east;

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

(c) whether India has lodged strong protest with China in this regard;

(d) if so, whether infrastructure build up has also been noticed along the Indo-Sino border;

(e) if so, whether these matters were also discussed during the Chinese President's visit to India; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government takes up violations of the Line of Actual Control with the Chinese side through established mechanisms of diplomatic channels and Border Personnel Meetings.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f) During the visit of President Hu Jintao to India, both sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas pending the resolution of the boundary question.

Setting up of Non-Coking Coal Washeries

1105. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to set up non-coking coal washeries within the jurisdiction of each subsidiary coal company of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private investors are also likely to be invited to set up washeries; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions contemplated to be laid down for the agreement to be signed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per information received from coal India Limited (CIL), CIL do not have any concreted proposal to set up non-coking coal washeries, as of now, on its own in any of its subsidiary coal companies. The need for augmenting supply of washed coal to thermal power plants is being increasingly recognised. Nevertheless, CIL have supported proposal for setting up non-coking coal washeries for supply of washed coal to linked core sector consumers.

(c) and (d) For washing non-coking coal, CIL encourages, wherever possible, its consumers and private investors to set up coal washeries. In this connection, CIL offers land and other infrastructural facilities, as available, on lease/chargeable basis. Broad terms and conditions of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ agreement contemplated for providing infrastructural facilities by subsidiary companies of CIL are as follows:

- Land to be used only for installation of the washery and its associated facilities.
- Land lease rent to be paid annually.
- Development of the land to be the responsibility of the washery operator.

[Translation]

Import of Medical Equipment

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

(a) whether the maximum number of medical equipment being used in medical field in the country are imported;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to prepare a scheme to manufacture these equipment indigenously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government is regulating manufacture and marketing of only those Sterile Medical devices, which are notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules framed thereunder. Data regarding number of medical equipments imported in the country is not being maintained centrally.

(b) No scheme for promotion of indigenous manufacture of medical equipments is at present under consideration in this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

(English)

New Treatment for Kala-Azar

1107. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of persons who die every year due to Kala-azar in the country;

(b) whether the Drug Controller General of India has recently approved new treatment for Kala-azar in the country;

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

(d) the details of results of clinical trials of the medicines manufactured so far; and

(e) the time by which new treatment and tested medicines are likely to be made available to the patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The reported number of deaths due to kala-azar during the last three years were as below:

Year	Deaths
2003	210
2004	155
2005	157

(b) and (c) The Drug Controller General of India has recently approved oral anti kala-azar drug "Miltefosine" for treatment of kala-azar patients.

(d) and (e) The clinical trials of miltefosine — oral drug have been conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. Based on the results of clinical trials, the Expert Committee of the Directorate of Health

Services has recommended introduction of miltefosine as first time of treatment.

The Government of India has already decided to introduce the drug in 10 kala-azar endemic districts in the country and procurement of drug is under way.

Law Against Female Foeticide

1108. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had organised a meeting to discuss a law against female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Women Members of Parliament present in that meeting; and

(d) the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The 14th meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 was held on 14th June, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by seven Members of Parliament. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) is a body constituted to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques. It was decided that CSB would play a proactive role in the implementation of the Act. District Appropriate Authority would be strengthened by inclusion of NGOs. The States be directed to take immediate action on the string operations done by various TV channels. The need to change Code of Ethics of Medical Council of India was expressed. It was desired to hold meeting of Members of Parliament with the State Government and to make the issue of female foeticide as a part of political agenda. It has been decided to make the sensitization on the issue as a part of school curriculum and have more number of years free education for girls than boys. Priority was decided to be given to worst areas like Punjab and Haryana and it was resolved to actively involve professional medical organizations in the matter. It was expressed that all concerned women organizations should join together to tackle the issue.

The punishment should be extended to family members and pregnant woman and not only to the doctor.

(c) and (d) In this special meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and all women Members of Parliament were invited as special guests to gather their views and suggestions on the very important issue of female foeticide as well as implementation of the PC&PNDT Act.

Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of State (Women & Child Development) attended as Co-chairperson of the CSB.

Ms. Brinda Karat, Member of Parliament (RS) also attended the meeting.

Combating Schizophrenia

1109. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Schizophrenia is spreading in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of patients suffering from this disease, State-wise;
- (d) the facilities available to treat such patients; and
- (e) the steps taken to spread awareness about this disease in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no evidence to say that the disease of Schizophrenia is spreading in the country. The epidemiological studies done from different parts of the country indicate that 2-3 persons per thousand are affected by Schizophrenia. Due to awareness, the number of patients accessing health care facilities has increased. The number of patients suffering from schizophrenia State-wise is not centrally maintained.

(d) Psychiatry department of Medical Colleges (262 in number), Psychiatry wing of General Hospitals both in private and public sector, mental hospitals and Institutes of mental health (37 in number under Government) provide both inpatient and outpatient facilities to the patients suffering from Schizophrenia.

In addition, District Mental Health Programme, a component of National Mental Health Programme which is operational in 94 districts of the country is also offering the facility of treatment to such patients in the community.

(e) Information, Communication and Education (IEC) is one of the component of District Mental Health Programme operational in 94 districts. At the National level funds are earmarked for IEC activities.

Fund Collection by AIIMS

1110. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether AIIMS has been allegedly collecting funds from patients for a specific surgery since 1999 as reported in the *Hindu*, dated October 19, 2006;
- (b) if so, the facts reported therein; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Government asked Director General Health Service and Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to look into the allegations of irregularities in funds collected from patients for procedures/surgeries carried out in CT & NS Centre. The Inquiry Report has been received. The Director, AIIMS and Chief of Cardio-Neuro Centre has been asked to give his reply on the report. Further action on the report will be taken on receipt of the reply from Director AIIMS.

[Translation]

Setting up of Health Sub-Centres

1111. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the total number of health sub-centres set up till date against the target fixed therefor, State-wise; and
- (b) the reasons for the shortfall against the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The total number of Sub centres functioning in the country as on September, 2005 are 146026. State/UT-wise establishment of Sub-centres during Five Year Plans is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Sub-centres are set up as per population norm

of 5000 in plain areas and 3000 in hilly/tribal/difficult areas. Since the population density in the country is not uniform, application of same norm all over the country has resulted in wide variance in the number of Sub-centres. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), it has been approved to revisit the population norm and to link the number of Sub-centres to the case load at the Sub-centres, distance to be covered etc.

Statement

Establishment of Sub Centres during Five Year Plans

Sl.No.	State/UT	Sub Centres functioning at the end of					Sub Centres Functioning ¹ as on Sept. 2005
		Sixth Plan (1981-85)	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	Eighth Plan (1992-97)	Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	Tenth Plan Target	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6129	7894	10568	10568	0	12522
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55	155	223	273	0	379
3.	Assam	1711	5109	5109	5109	0	5109
4.	Bihar	8289	14799	14799	14799	1210	10337
5.	Chhattisgarh					874	3818
6.	Goa	156	166	172	172	0	172
7.	Gujarat	4869	6834	7274	7274	0	7274
8.	Haryana	1591	2299	2299	2299	183	2433
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1299	1851	1980	2069	0	2068
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	609	1460	1700	1700	0	1879
11.	Jharkhand					0	4462
12.	Karnataka	4964	7793	8143	8143	0	8143
13.	Kerala	2270	5094	5094	5094	0	5094
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6615	11910	11938	11947	0	8874
15.	Maharashtra	6391	9248	9725	9725	808	10453
16.	Manipur	301	420	420	420	0	420
17.	Meghalaya	172	272	377	413	51	401
18.	Mizoram	162	220	324	346	0	366

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland	133	244	244	302	23	394
20.	Orissa	4127	5927	5927	5927	447	5927
21.	Punjab	2602	2852	2852	2852	6	2858
22.	Rajasthan	3790	8000	9400	9926	461	10512
23.	Sikkim	82	132	147	147	0	147
24.	Tamil Nadu	5860	8681	8681	8682	0	8682
25.	Tripura	230	506	537	539	40	539
26.	Uttaranchal					240	1576
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15653	20153	20153	20153	1944	20521
28.	West Bengal	6100	7873	7873	8126	2230	10356
29.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	32	84	96	100	0	107
30.	Chandigarh	12	12	12	13	0	13
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	19	34	34	36	4	38
32.	Daman and Diu	14	14	21	21	0	21
33.	Delhi	42	42	42	42	148	41
34.	Lakshadweep	14	14	14	14	0	14
35.	Pondicherry	73	73	80	80	0	76
	All India	84376	130165	136258	137311	8669	146026

Figures are provisional.

Shortage of Lady Doctors in Rural Areas

1112. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of lady doctors especially obstetricians in the Primary Health Centres and hospitals located in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to appoint lady doctors in these areas; and

(d) the action likely to be taken by the Government

against the doctors who discriminate and do not treat the patients properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Primary Health Centre (PHC), presently is manned by one Medical Officer (MO). As per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) formulated under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for upgradation of PHCs, it would be manned by 2 MOs, one male and one female and an AYUSH practitioner.

The shortfall of obstetricians and gynaecologists at Community Health Centres (CHCs) is 1643 as against the sanctioned posts of 2376, as on September, 2005.

Under NRHM, State Governments are authorized to appoint obstetricians, gynaecologists and other specialists on contract basis.

(d) Action is taken as per rules against erring doctors.

[*English*]

Expansion and Upgradation of IT Sector

1113. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the expansion and upgradation of the Information Technology (IT) in all the States of the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) the estimated number of employment opportunities to be provided in the IT Sector;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconstitute the Central IT Committee in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) For meeting the connectivity requirement for e-governance the entire country covering 29 States and 6 UTs, Government of India through the Department of Information Technology has approved the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme with an overall estimated outlay of Rs. 3,334 crores. This would help each State to establish a closed user group Instance connecting all District Headquarters, State Dve. Headquarters and Block/Taluka Hqs. with the State Capital with a minimum of 2mbps broadband capacity for each link. This would enable the States/UTs to increase their efficiency manifold in particularly in respect of delivery of Govt. to citizen services. So far as 24 States/UTs have availed of the SWAN Scheme and been accorded approvals for their individual SWAN Projects. Implementation of SWANs in these States/UTs are currently at different stages of execution.

The Government has also approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband and Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. The Scheme was approved in September, 2006. These centres would provide government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. Citizens would also be able to connect to the Internet through these centres. The Scheme has been approved a total cost of Rs. 5742 crores over 4 years, of which the Government of India contribute is begged at Rs. 856 crores and the State Governments share of support is Rs. 793 crores. The balance resources would be mobilized from the private sector. The Scheme is to be implemented through a Public Private Partnership. CSC proposals for 11 States has been approved by the Empowered Committees on CSCs with an estimated total government contribution of Rs. 877.66 crores including Central and States Govt. share.

(b) The assessment of human resource requirement for the IT sector is a continuous process. Government of India alongwith Industry association like NASSCOM have been continuously looking at this sector's requirement from time to time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Annual Health Fair

1114. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the 6th annual health fair had been organized in Delhi recently under the joint collaboration of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and FICCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people who participated in the health fair; and

(d) the objectives behind organising the above fair and the issues highlighted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 6th Annual Health Fair 'Arogya' was organized by Department of AYUSH in collaboration with FICCI from 14th to 17th Oct., 2006 at National Small Industries Corporation Exhibition Centre, Okhla Industrial Estate, near Kalkaji Temple, New Delhi.

This Department has been organizing Arogyas since 2001 with the objective of promoting the preventive and curative aspects of AYUSH systems among the general public and to showcase the achievements in the AYUSH sector in the field of research, drug standardization, etc. The fair also provides a forum to the AYUSH drug and equipment industries and to other stakeholders to interact with each other and with the general public. The Department of AYUSH had also organized 2 Regional Arogyas at Chennai and 1 at Hyderabad during the years 2005 and 2006.

In the 6th Arogya at Delhi, about 100 stakeholders including units under the Department of AYUSH and 13 State Governments participated in the fair. About 3 lakh people visited the fair. Lectures by experts, speciality clinics and live Yoga demonstration were main attractions of the fair.

[English]

Setting up of Post Offices in Kerala

1115. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has acquired land for setting up of post offices in Kerala;

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

(c) the number of post offices functioning in rented buildings in the State, location-wise; and

(d) the time by which the construction of buildings on the acquired land for post offices will begin?

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

(b) Location-wise details of plots of land acquired for setting up of post offices in Kerala are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) List showing the number of post offices working in rented buildings in the State, location-wise (Postal Division-wise) is given in the enclosed statement II.

(d) The commencement of construction of buildings on acquired land will depend on priority and subject to availability of funds.

Statement I

Details of plots and land acquired for setting up of post offices in Kerala

Sl.No.	Name of site	Region of Kerala Postal Circle in which situated
1	2	3
1.	Ambalamedu	Central Region
2.	Ambalapuzha East	Central Region
3.	Arthingal	Central Region
4.	Athirampuzha	Central Region
5.	Chalaky Town	Central Region
6.	Chungathara	Central Region
7.	Edappally-Ex Anchal	Central Region
8.	Emakulam South	Central Region
9.	Kariamannur	Central Region
10.	Karuvarakundu	Central Region
11.	Karuvatta	Central Region
12.	Koovapady	Central Region
13.	Kunnamkulam	Central Region
14.	Kuthiathode	Central Region
15.	Manimala	Central Region
16.	Manimooly	Central Region

1	2	3
17.	Mulanthuruthy	Central Region
18.	Muvattupuzha	Central Region
19.	Naduvannur	Central Region
20.	Nattakam	Central Region
21.	Nedumkandam	Central Region
22.	Nooranad	Central Region
23.	Ollur	Central Region
24.	Pala	Central Region
25.	Palluruthy	Central Region
26.	Pampaduda	Central Region
27.	Panampally Nagar	Central Region
28.	Perumanur	Central Region
29.	Perumbavur	Central Region
30.	Poochakkal	Central Region
31.	Pookutumpadam	Central Region
32.	Pothanicaud	Central Region
33.	Ramapuram	Central Region
34.	S K Puram	Central Region
35.	Santhampara	Central Region
36.	Thottakara	Central Region
37.	Thirikkunnappuzha	Central Region
38.	Tuvvur	Central Region
39.	Vallikunnam	Vallikunnam
40.	Vazhappaly	Vallikunnam
41.	Avanavancherry	Southern (HQ) Region
42.	Bhoothakulam	Southern (HQ) Region
43.	Clappana	Southern (HQ) Region
44.	Edamon	Southern (HQ) Region
45.	Eraviperoor	Southern (HQ) Region

1	2	3
46.	Eravipuram	Southern (HQ) Region
47.	Ezhumattur	Southern (HQ) Region
48.	Kadakkavur	Southern (HQ) Region
49.	Kallar	Southern (HQ) Region
50.	Kalooopara	Southern (HQ) Region
51.	Karamana	Southern (HQ) Region
52.	Kodumana	Southern (HQ) Region
53.	Kottanad	Southern (HQ) Region
54.	Kottarakkara	Southern (HQ) Region
55.	Kottiyam	Southern (HQ) Region
56.	Kulathur	Southern (HQ) Region
57.	Kuzhimathicadu	Southern (HQ) Region
58.	Malayalapuzha Eram	Southern (HQ) Region
59.	Mukhathala	Southern (HQ) Region
60.	Mynagapally	Southern (HQ) Region
61.	Palayankunnu	Southern (HQ) Region
62.	Pangode	Southern (HQ) Region
63.	Paripally	Southern (HQ) Region
64.	Perumkuzhy	Southern (HQ) Region
65.	Pirappancode	Southern (HQ) Region
66.	Poojapura	Southern (HQ) Region
67.	Punalur	Southern (HQ) Region
68.	Puthur	Southern (HQ) Region
69.	Sasthamangalam	Southern (HQ) Region
70.	TVM Engg college	Southern (HQ) Region
71.	Vallakadavu	Southern (HQ) Region
72.	Vamanapuram	Southern (HQ) Region
73.	Varkala	Southern (HQ) Region
74.	Aliyur	Northern Region

1	2	3
75.	Angadipuram	Northern Region
76.	Anjarakandy	Northern Region
77.	Balusseri	Northern Region
78.	Calicut REC	Northern Region
79.	Changala	Northern Region
80.	Cherakkara	Northern Region
81.	Cherplasserry	Northern Region
82.	Cherukunnu	Northern Region
83.	Cherupuzha	Northern Region
84.	Chokli	Northern Region
85.	Coyalmanna	Northern Region
86.	Dhamadom	Northern Region
87.	Downhill	Northern Region
88.	Edakkara	Northern Region
89.	Etakkad	Northern Region
90.	Ettannur	Northern Region
91.	Iritti	Northern Region
92.	Kadakkarappally	Northern Region
93.	Kakkattil	Northern Region
94.	Kaladi-MLP	Northern Region
95.	Kalpathi	Northern Region
96.	Karaparamba	Northern Region
97.	Kalpetta	Northern Region
98.	Kelakom	Northern Region
99.	Koduvayur	Northern Region
100.	Kolathur	Northern Region
101.	Kongad	Northern Region
102.	Koottilangadi	Northern Region
103.	Kotenchery	Northern Region

1	2	3
104.	Kudlu	Northern Region
105.	Kumbidi	Northern Region
106.	Kumbla	Northern Region
107.	Mamba	Northern Region
108.	Mampad	Northern Region
109.	Manjeri	Northern Region
110.	Manjeri	Northern Region
111.	Manjeshwar	Northern Region
112.	Mannam Parur	Northern Region
113.	Mannarcaud	Northern Region
114.	Mattanur	Northern Region
115.	Mattul	Northern Region
116.	Meenangadi	Northern Region
117.	Meppadi	Northern Region
118.	Mowanchery	Northern Region
119.	Mulakunnathukavu	Northern Region
120.	Mullaria	Northern Region
121.	Nadapuram	Northern Region
122.	Nilambur R S	Northern Region
123.	Nutstreet	Northern Region
124.	Palapuram	Northern Region
125.	Panamanna	Northern Region
126.	Panamaram	Northern Region
127.	Panangadi	Northern Region
128.	Parli	Northern Region
129.	Pattikad	Northern Region
130.	Payyannur	Northern Region
131.	Peravoor	Northern Region
132.	Perdala	Northern Region

1	2	3
133.	Peringanam	Northern Region
134.	Peringathur	Northern Region
135.	Perta	Northern Region
136.	Ponani	Northern Region
137.	S G Press	Northern Region
138.	S. Bathery	Northern Region
139.	Tenhipalam	Northern Region
140.	Tirunavaya	Northern Region
141.	Tiruvanad	Northern Region
142.	Valancheri	Northern Region
143.	Valapatanam	Northern Region
144.	Vengara	Northern Region
145.	Villapally	Northern Region
146.	Vythri	Northern Region
147.	Wandoor	Northern Region

Statement II

Number of post offices working in rented buildings in the State, location-wise (postal division-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of Location (Postal Division-wise)	Number of Post offices in rented buildings
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum north	62
2.	Trivandrum south	54
3.	Kollam	73
4.	Tituvalla	58
5.	Pathanamthitta	65
6.	Alappuzha	43
7.	Aluwa	61

1	2	3
8.	Changanacherry	43
9.	Kottayam	69
10.	Emakulam	61
11.	Idukki	41
12.	Irinjalakuda	56
13.	Mavelikara	43
14.	Thrissur	93
15.	Lakshadweep	8
16.	Kasaragod	27
17.	Kannur	54
18.	Thalassery	38
19.	Vadakara	33
20.	Calicut	56
21.	Tirur	50
22.	Manjeri	43
23.	Ottapalam	50
24.	Palakkad	76
Total		1257

Training of Sportspersons

1116. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sportspersons sent abroad by the Union Government for training during the last three years;

(b) the criteria for the selection in this regard; and

(c) the percentage out of the sports budget spent on the training of the sportspersons?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The number of sportspersons sent abroad for training during last 3 years

by the Government of India under various schemes are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of Sportsperson sent abroad for training during		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Scheme Relating to Talent Search & Training	25	20	41
2.	National Sports Development Fund	04	07	02

The Government also gives financial assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) under the 'Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations' for various purposes including training and participation in international sports events abroad. However no separate data is maintained in respect of sportspersons sent for training under this scheme.

(b) The selection criteria for assistance for training abroad under above noted schemes are as under:

- (i) Scheme Relating to Talent Search & Training: Under this scheme, the financial assistance is given only to promising sportspersons who have equaled or excelled national record or are Gold Medalists of last National Championship or are Medalists of Asian/Commonwealth/Afro-Asian/Olympic Games/World Championship in the relevant category i.e. Senior/Junior/Sub-junior in different sports disciplines.
- (ii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF): The Executive Committee of NSDF considers the proposals of exceptionally talented sportspersons who are medal prospects in major international events.
- (iii) Assistance to National Sports Federations: Under this scheme, the sportspersons to be sent abroad for training and participation in international events are selected by the National Sports Federation concerned on the basis of national ranking, performance at national level/ during selection trials.

(c) The percentage of total budget spend on coaching/ training of sportspersons/teams during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Percentage of sports budget spent on coaching/training of sportsperson/teams	19.18	21.12	26.08

[Translation]

Accommodations to Postal Employees

1117. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether residential colonies have been constructed for postal employees all over the country;

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

(c) the details of the newly constructed accommodations for the employees of the Department; and

(d) the facilities being given to those employees who have not been provided Government accommodation?

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

(b) State-wise and area-wise details of residential colonies are under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Newly constructed accommodations for the employees of the Postal Department are; 12 Type-III quarters at M.B. Nagar, Ludhiana (Punjab), 1 Type-IV

quarter at Sundemagar (HP) and 1 Type-IV quarter at Dharamshala (HP).

(d) The employees who have not been provided Government accommodation are provided the facility of House Rent Allowance, as per Rules.

Mandatory Identity Cards for Indians

1118. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has made identity cards mandatory for every Indian traveller visiting Nepal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact thereof on the relations between India and Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. However, it is obligatory for all persons entering Nepal and India from either country by air to carry some identification papers to establish their identity as Nepalese and Indian citizens.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[English]

Dependent Visa by Britain

1119. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dependent visa is not given to most of the views of those Indians who have gone to U.K. for higher studies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to take up the matter with Britain; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Requisite information is being collected from the High Commission of India, London and will be tabled before the House as early as possible.

Discrimination Against HIV/AIDS Victims

1120. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a draft Bill to prevent discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Bill;

(c) the total number of youth afflicted with HIV/AIDS in the country, State-wise;

(d) the policies and priorities of the Government particularly towards youths who are afflicted with AIDS;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to introduce needle exchange programme;

(f) if so, the details thereof including its objectives; and

(g) the time by which the said programme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to bring "HIV/AIDS Bill — 2005". The objective of the bill is:

- To prohibit discrimination;
- To ensure right to disclosure of information on HIV status;
- Right to access for testing, treatment and counselling;
- Right to safe working environment;
- Promotion of strategies for reduction of risks;
- Right to information and education on HIV/AIDS;
- Formulation of appropriated social security scheme; and
- Appointment of 'Health Ombud'.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16.	Jharkhand	1	0	83	37	104	53	0	0	168	90	258
17.	Karnataka											
18.	Kerala											
19.	Lakshadweep											
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	30	14	83	20	9	0	124	37	161
21.	Maharashtra	212	164	484	275	1061	527	166	70	1923	1036	2959
22.	Manipur	2	1	4	6	48	17	0	2	54	26	80
23.	Meghalaya											
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	4
25.	Nagaland											
26.	Orissa	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	4	2	6
27.	Pondicherry											
28.	Punjab	4	4	21	18	47	9	6	3	78	34	112
29.	Rajasthan	8	10	46	26	126	66	16	4	196	106	302
30.	Sikkim											
31.	Tamil Nadu	137	105	726	1010	2539	1190	290	109	3692	2414	6106
32.	Tripura											
33.	Uttar Pradesh											
34.	Uttaranchal											
35.	West Bengal											
Total		527	401	2610	2754	7328	3326	904	331	11369	6622	18191

[*Translation*]

Software Piracy

1121. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the software piracy in the country has caused losses to the information technology industries to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated loss;

(c) whether the sale and purchase of assembled computers also cause revenue losses to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to control piracy in the software field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The level of Personal Computer (PC) software piracy in India,

according to Business Software Alliance, the International association of the world's leading software developers, was 72% in year 2005 resulting in estimated loss of US \$566 million, (Rs. 2547 crores). However, the figures are not substantiable since the organisation does not reveal its methodology of assessing the extent of the said piracy.

(c) and (d) Manufacturing of computers essentially involves assembly of parts. If the assembly of computers takes place in the unorganized sector, it is likely to cause revenue loss to the Government.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to control software piracy include the followings:

- (i) In India the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of software is covered under Copyright Law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment on a mandatory basis. A Police Officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector is empowered to seize infringing copies, duplicating and other equipments used for making infringing copies, without a warrant. The Copyright Act also prohibits the sale or to give on hire, or offer for sale or hire, any copy of the computer programme without specific authorization of the Copyright holder.
- (ii) Government has also set up a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council (under MHRD); the nodal Administrative Ministry, which reviews the progress of enforcement of Copyright Act and also advises on measures — both on the policy front as well as on the implementation front for its better enforcement. Special Cells for monitoring the enforcement of copyright have been set at Police Headquarters in the States/UTs.
- (iii) Computer Software is exempted from Customs Duty.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued to various Government Departments to only use legal copies of software. Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Information Technology, Government of India, as well as NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), sponsor Software Management Seminars to enhance awareness.

- (v) Government has been supporting Anti-Piracy Campaign of NASSCOM. Other initiatives of NASSCOM include (i) Strict implementation of Code of Conduct for member companies of NASSCOM, (ii) Distribution of brochures and stickers explaining about "Software Piracy and the Law", (iii) Anti-Piracy Billboards, Hotline for piracy complaints.
- (vi) Department of Information Technology is also setting up a National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software to explore effectiveness of such softwares to bring down piracy in the country by way of identifying, evaluating and popularizing a set of proven F/OSS packages in the Education and SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) sector as an alternative to counterpart proprietary ones.

[English]

Promotion of Sports and Games by SAI

1122. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has set up full-fledged infrastructure in West Bengal for promotion of sports and games and provide appropriate training facilities for athletes of the State;

(b) if so, the details of such infrastructure set up in the State along with its existing activities achievements including its long term plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Sports Authority of India has setup its Eastern regional Centre at Kolkata having its administrative office, sports infrastructure, playfields, sports Science centre, etc. SAI is also imparting training to sportpersons in the following centres:-

SAI Training Centres.

1. Kolkata
2. Burdwan
3. Lebong
4. Siliguri

Centre of Excellence.

Kolkata

National Sports Talent Contest Scheme.

Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan Salt Lake City, Kolkata.

Indigenous Games & Martial Art.

Sharda Vihar Mandir, Sundarshanpur Post Raiganj,
Distt. Dinajpur.

During the last two years, 27 sportspersons from SAI Regional Centre, Kolkata have won medals at National Level and 92 sportspersons at International Level in different sports disciplines.

As part of the long terms plans, SAI aims to achieve the following outcome in the country, including the State of West Bengal, during the 11th Five Year Plan:

- (i) To increase the number of SAI trainees under different sports promotional schemes from 10000 to 50000 within the Plan period.
- (ii) To create the required sports facilities and other infrastructure for the increased number of trainees.
- (iii) To provide the required scientific support to the sportspersons.
- (iv) To contribute in increasing India's medal tally in Commonwealth Games 2010, Asian Games 2008 and Olympic Games 2012.
- (v) To create residential accommodation catering to the need of National and International level Sportspersons in the Regional Centres of SAI.

[Translation]

Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation

1123. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of people living below the poverty line has decreased only by 0.79 per cent annually whereas the average annual growth rate remained 6 per cent for the period from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons behind unsatisfactory percentage achieved in alleviation of poverty despite the high annual economic growth rate;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring about in changes the present economic development programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. On the basis of provisional consumer expenditure data of 61st Round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), the poverty ratio in 2004-05 has been estimated as about 22 percent using Mixed Recall Period (MRP, in which the consumer expenditure data of five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period) in the Draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The poverty estimates in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption (about 22 percent) is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, which is 26.1 percent. This implies a decrease in the poverty ratio by 0.79 percent per year during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The average annual growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) in real terms for the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 is estimated as 6 percent.

(b) and (c) The relationship between the increase in growth rate of economy and reduction of poverty are determined by a complex set of factors. In addition to the rate of income growth (measured by the rate of growth of GDP), its distribution across sectors and regions, and between occupation and social class, as well as the rate growth of population are also need to be taken into account to explain the change in the incident of poverty in the country.

(d) and (e) The broad strategy for economic development during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-2012) has been set out in the Draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan which has been prepared for consideration by the National Development Council.

*[English]***Trained People for BPO Centres**

1124. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of trained people for BPO centres engaged in offering outsourcing services is allegedly posing a threat to the monopoly enjoyed by the country in this sector;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made by the Government to induct trained personnel into BPOs to ensure their success in the country;

(c) if so, whether the organisations have shown their reluctance in renewing their contracts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to sustain the monopoly enjoyed by the country in the outsourcing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is growing concern about shortage of experienced and quality professionals in IT sector.

(b) The steps taken by Government in this regard are given in the enclosed statement.

Many of the IT companies have their own training centres in which the employees are provided training to carry out BPO related work. Moreover, the companies are spending more on quality and security which is the actual strength of Indian BPO companies.

(c) No, Sir. Software and services exports are estimated to have grown at 32 percent in dollar terms during the year 2005-06 as compared to the previous year.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement***Steps taken by Government***

Government of India along with Industry association like NASSCOM has been continuously looking at the IT

sector's requirement from time to time. Government of India had set up a Task Force on 'Human Resource Development in information Technology' with the main objective to prepare a long-term strategy for significantly increasing the number of well trained IT professionals in line with economic projections. The Task Force had noted that the issue of manpower gap is not as much about the institutional seat availability as about the nature of skills and training provided in these institutions. The follow-up include, DIT initiating measures to generate manpower in key verticals like bioinformatics, VLSI Design and Information Security; NASSCOM launching a pilot phase of NAC programme - NASSCOM's Assessment of Competence to help the ITeS-BPO industry; and ITeS-BPO course implemented by DOEACC Society in North East and Jammu and Kashmir to enhance the skills of youth for employment in ITeS-BPO sector.

In addition, initiatives by AICTE include, effective Industry-Institute interactions through collaborative projects with the Industry Association, revision of curriculum so as to meet the necessary requirement and Faculty Development Activities to ensure quality and industry relevance, etc. The initiatives taken by University Grants Commission (UGC) include Digital Repository of Research and Training material, Internet connectivity for universities, information communication and computer education, Teaching innovations in various disciplines and career-oriented education programmes.

Institutes of Information Technology have been set up by the Government of India, by the State Governments and also in the private sector to provide qualified IT-related manpower to the Industry.

Closure of RAPS Unit

1125. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether one unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station is closed since October, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government plans to compensate Rajasthan for loss of generation of power by RAPS unit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Unit 1 has been shut down since October, 2004 for detailed assessment of its health and techno-economic evaluation for its refurbishment.

(c) and (d) The State of Rajasthan has an allocation from Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS), Narora (U.P.) in addition to share from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Units 2 to 4. The State of Rajasthan will also have a share from RAPS 5 & 6, from allocation of power to be done by Ministry of Power, on expected completion of these projects in the year 2007-08.

(e) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Alleged Misbehaviour with Indians

1126. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mumbai bound flight was forced to land at Amsterdam on 23rd of August, 2006 and its passengers were interrogated;

(b) if so, whether the officials in Amsterdam had also allegedly misbehaved with the passengers;

(c) if so, whether India had registered its protest with Holland in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) A Northwest Airlines flight NW 0042, bound for Mumbai from Amsterdam was turned back to Amsterdam on request made by the pilot/US sky marshals on board the flight. The flight was escorted back to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam by Dutch Air Force aircraft on August 23, 2006. 12 Indian passengers on the flight were detained by the Dutch authorities for investigation.

The Dutch Ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and a strong protest was

registered at the handling of the unfortunate incident, especially the treatment meted out to the detainees.

The Dutch authorities expressed understanding for the concerns expressed by the Indian Government but drew attention to the apparently suspicious behaviour of the 12 Indian passengers, which appeared to require urgent preventive action. They conveyed that as soon as the investigations were completed within one-and-a-half days, the passengers were not only released from detention, but the Dutch authorities facilitated their earlier possible return to India.

The Indian Mission in the Hague worked closely with the Dutch authorities not only to obtain their early release but also to ensure their safe flight back to Mumbai.

[English]

Uranium Processing Plant in A.P.

1127. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. proposes to set up a uranium processing plant at Peddagadda in Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed would affect the villagers/farmers and the cash crops grown in the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) proposes to set up uranium mines and a processing plant at Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh. The mines are proposed to be located at Lambapur-Peddagattu. The processing plant is proposed to be set up at Seripally. A production of 1250 tonnes of ore per day is expected from all the mines and the same will be processed in the plant. This will be taken up only after all the required statutory clearances are obtained.

(c) and (d) The plant and the tailings pond require 400 acres of land, of which only 40 acres is under

cultivation. The total number of project affected families would be 306 in the villages of Seripally, Mudigonda and Venkatampet. The proposed processing plant would thus have only marginal affect. There will be no significant effect on villagers/farmers and cash crop grown around the plant.

(e) UCIL has drawn a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme to be implemented in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This will be over and above the compensation payable for the acquisition of the land.

NKC Recommendations

1128. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted a set of ten recommendations relating to setting up of portals on water, energy, environment, knowledge network, higher education, intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge and health issues;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to consider their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Breast Cancer

1129. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many younger women are falling prey to breast cancer due to the fast paced lifestyle as reported in *The Times of India* dated November 7, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to create awareness among the general public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, the data from Population Based Cancer Registry, Delhi do not reveal any significant increase in the age specific incidence rates of breast cancer below 40 years of age.

(c) As per received scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer by creating awareness. Grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations to create awareness among general masses. The public awareness about cancer is also being carried out through the telecast of the programme "Kalyani" on Doordarshan. National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on 7th November every year. This year the national level health awareness activities about cancer was carried out on 7th November across the country including the 25 Regional Cancer Centres. Besides newspaper advertisement and Radio/TV campaigns have also been launched nationwide to spread awareness about cancer.

Study on Atomic Energy

1130. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has conducted any study regarding cost effectiveness of atomic energy to ensure security in the country; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount Against MTNL Subscribers

1131. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding amount of MTNL against telephone subscribers in Delhi as on date and the number of telephone subscribers against whom amount is outstanding alongwith the category thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amounts from telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total outstanding amount more than six months old as on 31.10.06 against Basic (including CDMA) Telephone subscribers of MTNL Delhi is Rs. 677.64 crores and less than six months (Current Billing) outstanding is Rs. 58.73 crores. The category-wise more than six months old outstanding amount is as under:

State	Rs. 0.58 crores
Central	Rs. 6.99 crores
Defence	Rs. 2.55 crores
MP	Rs. 8.65 crores
Private	Rs. 658.87 crores

For GSM subscribers, more than six months old outstanding is Rs. 75.35 crores and less than six months outstanding is Rs. 7.68 crores.

The total Amount Billed for since inception of MTNL upto 31.10.06 is Rs. 73,452.92 crores out of which a total of Rs. 819.40 crores (including current billing) is outstanding as on 31.10.06. The outstanding amount forms 1.12% of the total billed amount.

Bills are issued in respect of post-paid customers only and they are issued after customers have availed of telecom facilities. Further a time of 21 days is granted to customers for making the payments of the bills. Therefore, at any point of time, there will be an outstanding due against most of the customers. A total of approximately 58.78 lacs bills are pending payment as on 31.10.06, most of which are current bills.

(b) Various efforts are made towards reduction in outstanding dues namely:-

- (i) Automated telephone reminders are made to the subscribers who default in making the payments of their telephone bills.
- (ii) Further, action of disconnection of the telephone including disconnection of other working connections of the subscribers, if any, are also initiated.

(iii) Legal notices are, thereafter, served to the subscribers.

(iv) In the event of above efforts not yielding results, recovery suits are filed in the court of law wherever possible.

(v) An attempt has also been made to recover old outstanding dues, through recovery agents.

[English]

Issue of Medical Visa

1132. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of medical visa requests from foreign nationals received by the Union Government during the last one year till date; and

(b) the number out of them granted, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Requisite information is being collected from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and will be tabled before the House as early as possible.

[Translation]

Development of North-Eastern Region

1133. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of poverty in the North-Eastern States as compared to the national average;

(b) the details of projects undertaken by the Government for the development of North-Eastern Region during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the economic and physical targets set for implementation of these projects and the progress made so far;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to declare a special package for the economic development of North-Eastern States;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken or contemplated for upliftment of the people of North-Eastern states?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER

Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	All India
33.47	36.09	28.54	33.87	19.47	32.67	36.55	34.44	26.10

(b) and (c) The Ministry for the Development of the North-East Region sanctions infrastructure development projects under the schemes of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and North Eastern Council (NEC). The details of the projects during the last three years under these two schemes are available on the Ministry's websites: www.mdoner.gov.in and www.mdoner.gov.in/index3.asp?ssid=148 respectively.

(d) and (e) A number of Socio-Economic Packages have been announced from time to time for the North Eastern States. The details are as under:

Sl.No.	Month and Year of Announcement	States Covered
1.	October, 1996	All NE States
2.	May, 1997	Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram Nagaland and Tripura
3.	April, 1998	All NE States
4.	January, 2000	All NE States
5.	April, 2003	Sikkim
6.	October, 2003	Nagaland
7.	November, 2004	Assam and Manipur
8.	October, 2005	Tripura
9.	January, 2006	Assam

(f) In order to accelerate the economic development of the North Eastern States, all the Central Ministries/ Departments, except those which are specifically

OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As per the information from the Planning Commission, the percentage of the population below poverty line in the North-Eastern States as compared to the national average in 1999-2000 was as under:

exempted, are required to earmark 10 per cent of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the NE States since 1998-99. The unspent amount out of this provisioning accrues to the NLCPR, which is administered by the Ministry for DONER for supporting infrastructure development projects in the Region.

Performance of Mobile Services

1134. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Chhattisgarh where mobile services are not improving due to lack of proper infrastructure; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation in such districts, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Mobile services throughout the country including Chhattisgarh are growing at a very fast rate.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing Cellular Mobile Service in all the 16 Districts Head Quarters and 90 out of 97 Tehsil Head Quarters of Chhattisgarh. Besides BSNL, four private telecom Service Providers are also providing mobile services in most of the Districts/towns of Chhattisgarh.

In order to meet the growing demand all the telecom Service Providers are continuously augmenting their mobile network infrastructure and optimizing the same for improving the performance and Quality of Service.

*[English]***Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques**

1135. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the cost of implementing the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether budgetary allocation has been made for the implementation of the PNDT Act in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the extent of budgetary support provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 was enacted and brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Government has been issuing directions from time to time to the States and Union Territories to strictly implement PC & PNDT Act and the Supreme Court directions in this regard.

In order to implement the PC & PNDT Act, both Central and State Government undertake awareness generation activities. Apart from these activities, the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) of the Government of India as well as Appropriate Authorities at the State and District level monitor the implementation of the Act at the field level.

No exercise has been undertaken to assess the costs of implementation of the Act in the country. The States however, have been authorized to include the expenditure under Reproductive and Child Health-II Project Implementation Plan. Besides, at the central level under IEC budget, an amount of Rs. 4.00 crores has been allocated for creating awareness during 2006-07. This budgetary support has been provided to D.A.V.P. for telecasting of PNDT Video Spots on Doordarshan and Satellite Channels as per the media plan. Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) has been provided funds for organization of sensitization workshops for their members, as per the proposals received from them. Apart from the above, from the general IEC budget of the Ministry, the dissemination of PNDT issues is given its due importance.

Imbalance Between Growth and Distribution

1136. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty has declined by a mere 0.74 per cent during the last decade inspite of spectacular economic growth during this period, as per the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons for this imbalance between growth and distribution; and

(c) the measures being contemplated by the Union Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The poverty estimates are prepared based on the results of the large sample surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on household consumer expenditure on quinquennial basis. The last such survey was conducted during 2004-05, as a part of 61st round NSS survey. The report on consumption expenditure is yet to be released. However, based on some preliminary results available for use in the approach paper to the 11th Five Year Plan, the poverty ratio at the national level in 2004-05 has been estimated as about 22 per cent using Mixed Recall Period (MRP, in which the consumer expenditure data of five non-food items, namely, clothing, foot wear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period). The reduction in poverty during the period 1993-94 to 2004-05 is 0.74 percent per year.

(b) During 2004-05 the percentage of population below the poverty line was almost 28 percent where as it was 36 percent in 1993-94. This implies a decrease in the poverty ratio by 0.74 percent per year during the period. The average annual growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) in real terms of the period 1993-94 to 2004-05 is estimated as 6.3 percent. The relationship between the increase in the growth rate of economy and reduction of poverty are determined by a complex set of factors, Unequal agricultural development, frictions and rigidity in the Indian economy are some of the reasons for the imbalance between the growth and distribution. On account of unequal agricultural development, slow growth in some States and sectors where employment opportunities could have been created, the benefits of growth have trickled down differently amount different sections and classes of people.

(c) The broad strategy for economic development during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-2012) has been set out to bridge the gap in the Draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan which has been prepared for consideration by the National Development Council.

Cost of Implementing RTI Act, 2005

1137. ADV. SURESH KURUP:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the financial cost of implementing the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated cost, State-wise;

(c) whether budgetary allocation has been made for the implementation of the RTI Act during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

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 (d) All public authorities have to meet expenditure on implementation of the RTI Act within their resources. However, a sum of Rs. 6.00 (six) Crore has been allocated for the Central Information Commission for the year 2006-07. Details of the allocations made by the State Governments are not centrally maintained.

[Translation]

Indo-Sino Ties

1138. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year 2006 is being celebrated as India-China friendship year;

(b) if so, the total increase in investments, trade and movement of people between these two countries in this friendship year *vis-a-vis* last year;

(c) whether several agreements have been signed during the Chinese President's visit to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which they are likely to benefit India; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) During the financial year 2005-06, bilateral trade was US\$ 17.62 billion, representing a 38.65 percent increase over the previous financial year 2004-2005 when the figure was US\$ 12.71 billion. There are also positive trends in the two-way flow of investments and people-to-people exchanges.

(c) Yes.

(d) A Joint Declaration was issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India. The two sides also signed thirteen bilateral documents covering: establishment of Consulates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata; cooperation between the two Foreign Offices; provision of land in Shanghai for the Consulate General of India; promotion and protection of investments; cooperation in inspection of iron ore exports; phytosanitary requirements for exporting rice from India to China; cooperation in agricultural research; educational exchanges; conservation of cultural heritage; commodity futures regulatory cooperation; forestry cooperation; prevention of theft, clandestine excavation and illicit import and export of cultural property; and cooperation between the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China.

These wide-ranging agreements will contribute to the development and diversification of India-China relations.

(e) The Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit of President Hu Jintao to India spells out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and

Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.

(English)

Revamping AIIMS

1139. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to revamp the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in that regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to streamline the admission of the poor patients in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) For improving the functioning of AIIMS an Expert Committee with Dr. M.S. Valiathan, Shri P.K. Hota, the then Secretary (H&FW), Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Bio-Technology and Dr. R.K. Srivastava, Director General of Health Services was constituted. The Committee has submitted its report which is under examination.

(e) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Comprehensive Legislation for Call Centres/BPOs

1140. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the number of Call Centres/BPOs operating in the country and the number of workers employed therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive central legislation to regulate the operations of the Call Centres/BPOs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) there are about 1250 ITES-BPO units registered as EoUs. As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) there are about 450 call centres/BPOs in the country. As per the estimates of NASSCOM currently, there are about 415,000 are direct employment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) ITES-BPO sector is delicensed and the operations are governed by a mutual agreement between the parties. Data and information security is an international issue and is not unique to anyone country. The Government has initiated the following steps:

(i) to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000 to strengthen the regulatory framework pertaining to data protection and privacy of information.

(ii) to create comprehensive security assurance framework for IT/ITES and BPO operations in the country.

(iii) NASSCOM had already set up National Registry of employees in IT services industry in the country.

Voting Rights to NRIs

1141. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

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

(a) the present status of conferring the right of franchise to the Non-resident Indians;

(b) whether the report submitted in this regard has since been examined; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) With a view to enabling citizens of India who are absenting from their place of ordinary residence owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India, to get their names enrolled in the electoral rolls and cast their votes when they are in their constituency at the time of polls, the Government introduced the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha on 27-02-2006. The said Bill was referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination. The Committee presented its Report to Rajya Sabha/laid in Lok Sabha on the 4th August, 2006. The Report is being examined in the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

Outstanding Amount Against UN

1142. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount outstanding against the United Nations to India in connection with the deployment of forces for its role in peace keeping operations and other heads, if any, at present;

(b) the reasons for delay in payment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An amount of US \$ 147.516 million is outstanding against the United Nations, as on October 31, 2006, in connection with India's current deployment in UN peacekeeping operations.

(b) and (c) The delay in making payments to India and other troop contributing countries is mainly due to some member states withholding or delaying their mandatory financial contributions to the United Nations. The Government continues to actively follow up this matter with the UN authorities as well as other member states. The Government has also raised this issue in the UN General Assembly and its Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

1143. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of pending cases in various circles regarding providing employment on compassionate ground under various categories as on October 31, 2006;

(b) the details of the pending cases under various circles of MTNL/BSNL/Postal Services, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to settle the pending cases; and

(d) the time by which all the pending cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Circle-wise details of pending cases in various Circles regarding employment on compassionate ground under various categories in MTNL, BSNL and Postal Services as on 31-10-2006 are given in the enclosed statement I, II and III respectively.

(b) The year-wise details of pending cases under various Circles of MTNL, BSNL and Postal Services are given in the enclosed statement IV, V and VI respectively.

(c) and (d) MTNL: The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Management has decided to impose a complete ban on compassionate ground appointment in the Board meeting held on 16-02-2004.

BSNL: The criterion for appointments on compassionate ground prescribed by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is being followed in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Compassionate grounds appointments can be made up to maximum of 5% of vacancies arising with a year under direct recruitment quota in Non-Executive category posts. Disposal of pending cases is progressively done keeping in view the availability of vacant posts in compassionate ground appointment quota. Hence it is a continuous process.

Postal Wing: Every Postal circle has a Circle Relaxation Committee which meets to examine cases objectively as per guidelines issued by the Nodal Ministry prior to the commencement of the annual direct recruitment plan. All the cases are examined by the Circle Relaxation Committee and only indigent cases recommended for appointment on compassionate grounds. Extremely penurious cases are considered for a period of three years. Hence this is a continuous process.

Statement I

Circle-wise status of Compassionate Ground Appointment in MTNL as on 31.10.2006

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of cases
1.	Delhi	676
2.	Mumbai	604
Total:		1280

Note: MTNL, being a PSU is having only two categories of staff i.e. Executive and Non-Executive. Compassionate appointments are offered only in the Non-Executive category.

Statement II

Circle-wise status of pending cases of giving service on Compassionate Grounds in BSNL as on 31.10.2006

Circle	Approved candidates for giving service on compassionate grounds in Non-Executive Category
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
Andhra Pradesh	7
Assam	29
Bihar	90
Chhattisgarh	21
Gujarat	0
Haryana	15

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0
Karnataka	153
Kerala	185
Madhya Pradesh	60
Maharashtra	45
North East-I	0
North East-II	17
Punjab	72
Orissa	30
Rajasthan	39
Tamil Nadu	118
Uttar Pradesh (West)	63
Uttar Pradesh (East)	224
Jharkhand	0
Uttaranchal	18
Chennai Telephones	59
West Bengal	9
Calcutta T.D.	0
N.T.R.	1
Total	1255

Note: (i) BSNL, being a PSU, is having only two categories of staff i.e. Executive & Non-Executive. Compassionate appointments are offered only in the Non-Executive category.

(ii) Figures indicated above are in respect of approved cases and does not include cases pending for consideration by High Power Committees.

Statement III***Pending cases category-wise in various Postal Circles***

Sl.No.	Name of circle	Details of pending cases, category-wise as on 31-10-2006			Total
		PA/SA	Postman	Group 'D'	
1.	Assam	5	6	3	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	66	49	39	154
3.	Bihar	133	69	48	250
4.	Chhattisgarh	15	6	3	24
5.	Delhi	38	23	—	61
6.	Gujarat	19	37	28	84
7.	Haryana	26	12	12	50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9	4	9	23
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	2	10	13
10.	Jharkhand	17	6	9	32
11.	Karnataka	46	63	50	159
12.	Kerala	11	16	11	38
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	2	5
14.	Maharashtra	215	119	235	569
15.	North East	2	1	4	7
16.	Orissa	20	18	30	68
17.	Punjab	24	14	25	63
18.	Rajasthan	31	3	16	50
19.	Tamil Nadu	216	158	248	622
20.	Uttar Pradesh	148	57	53	258
21.	Uttaranchal	26	12	5	43
22.	West Bengal	88	37	81	206

Statement IV*The Year-wise details of pending cases in MTNL for appointment under compassionate ground*

Year	Total No. of cases pending	
	Delhi	Mumbai
1995	2	1
1998	1	4
1999	3	3
2000	8	7
2001	49	33
2002	127	83
2003	84	158
2004	173	107
2005	148	138
2006 (31-10-06)	81	70
Total	676	604

Statement V*Year-wise details of pending approved cases for giving compassionate appointment in BSNL*

Circle	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total as on 31-10-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
Assam	—	—	29	—	—	—	29
Bihar	—	—	38	—	52	—	90
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	21	—	21
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	15	15
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	153	153
Kerala	—	—	2	60	59	64	185
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	60	—	—	—	60
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	29	16	45
North East-I	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
North East-II	—	—	—	—	2	15	17
Punjab	—	—	2	20	22	28	72
Orissa	—	6	8	15	1	—	30
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	39	39
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	69	49	118
Uttar Pradesh (West)	—	—	34	21	7	1	63
Uttar Pradesh (East)	—	15	124	34	22	29	224
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	5	13	18
Chennai Telephones	—	—	—	—	8	51	59
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
Calcutta T.D.	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
N.T.R.	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	—	21	297	150	305	482	1255

Statement VI*The year-wise details of pending cases in various Postal Circles*

Sl.No.	Circle	Year	Details of total pending cases category-wise as on 31-10-2006			Total
			PA/SA	Postman	Group 'D'	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Assam	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		2005	—	—	—	—
		2006	5	6	3	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	32	25	20	77
		2006	34	24	19	77
3.	Bihar	2002	32	12	16	60
		2003	30	14	6	50
		2004	29	20	13	62
		2005	27	13	5	45
		2006	15	10	8	33
4.	Chhattisgarh	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	4	2	—	6
		2005	7	2	3	12
		2006	4	2	—	6
5.	Delhi	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	21	13	—	34
		2006	17	10	—	27
6.	Gujarat	2002	—	2	—	2
		2003	1	2	2	5
		2004	1	3	2	6
		2005	4	15	10	29
		2006	13	15	14	42
7.	Haryana	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	14	5	7	26
		2006	12	7	5	24
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	1	—	2	3
		2004	2	—	—	2
		2005	1	3	5	9
		2006	5	1	2	8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2002	—	—	3	1
		2003	—	2	4	6
		2004	—	—	2	2
		2005	—	—	1	1
		2006	1	—	2	3
10.	Jharkhand	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	7	5	7	19
		2006	10	1	2	13
11.	Karnataka	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	18	42	36	96
		2006	28	21	14	63
12.	Kerala	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	2	3	1	6
		2005	1	1	1	3
		2006	8	12	9	29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	—	—	—	—
		2006	2	1	2	5
14.	Maharashtra	2002	46	33	38	117
		2003	46	23	71	140
		2004	109	58	122	389
		2005				
		2006	14	05	04	19
15.	North East	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	1	1
		2004	—	—	—	—
		2005	—	—	—	—
		2006	2	1	3	6
16.	Orissa	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	1	—	—	1
		2005	1	4	20	25
		2006	18	14	10	42
17.	Punjab	2002	1	1	—	2
		2003	3	2	1	6
		2004	2	—	5	7
		2005	2	4	10	16
		2006	16	7	9	32
18.	Rajasthan	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—
		2004	5	—	4	9
		2005	9	7	4	16
		2006	17	—	8	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Tamil Nadu	UPTO 2000	216	158	248	622
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2002	6	3	4	13
		2003	7	4	6	17
		2004	9	6	8	23
		2005	79	21	10	110
		2006	47	23	25	95
21.	Uttaranchal	2002	—	—	—	—
		2003	4	3	—	7
		2004	4	4	1	9
		2005	8	2	2	12
		2006	10	3	2	15
22.	West Bengal	2002	5	5	6	16
		2003	8	1	9	18
		2004	11	3	18	32
		2005	32	17	19	68
		2006	32	11	29	72

*[English]***Population of OBCs/SCs/STs**

1144. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the population of OBCs/SCs/STs separately as per the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) study; and

(b) the percentage increase of each community over the last survey report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per the results of

the 55th (1999-2000) and 61st (2004-05) round surveys of NSSO, the estimated percentage of STs/SCs/OBCs population to the total estimated population along with %age increase of each community over the previous survey results, are given below:

Year	ST(%)	SC(%)	OBC(%)
1999-2000	8.9	19.6	35.8
2004-05	8.4	19.7	41.1
% increase	-0.5	0.1	5.3

High Incidence of AIDS

1145. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National AIDS Control Organization and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have stated that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland are high HIV/AIDS prevalence States in the country;

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

(c) whether the children of affected families are denied the right of education;

(d) whether elders are also being jobs as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National AIDS Control Organisation with support from National Institute of Health and Family Welfare and National Institute of Medical Statistics (ICMR), conducts Sentinel Surveillance every year among high-risk populations, STI patients and Antenatal mothers. Based on the results of HIV prevalence in different population groups, six States have been declared as high prevalence States where HIV prevalence among ante natal mothers has been observed to be more than 1%. These States are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland.

(c) to (e) National AIDS Control Programme has adopted a Rights based approach and thus no children of affected families will be denied the right of education or employment.

Setting up of Overseas Investment Centres

1146. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to set up Overseas Investment Centres abroad to attract investments from overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for setting up of the same;

(c) the names of countries where Overseas Centres have been set up;

(d) the functions of such Centres and the countries wherein these are likely to be set up in future; and

(e) the time by which both these Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, it has been decided to set up an Overseas Indian Centre shortly at Dubai to provide medical, legal and financial counselling etc. to the overseas Indian workers in Gulf countries.

External Assistance for NRHM

1147. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received/likely to receive external assistance for the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its present status; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for its success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) integrates a number of ongoing health sector programmes including the following, which receive external funding assistance:

- (i) Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) — Rs. 3748 crores equivalent of external assistance.
- (ii) Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) — Rs. 1297.80 crores equivalent of external assistance.
- (iii) National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) — Rs. 317 crores equivalent of external assistance.
- (iv) Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) — Rs. 306.27 crores equivalent of external assistance.

The indicated levels of external assistance is accessed by the Government of India in phases over the programme duration against actual expenditure.

(c) The Union Government facilitated preparation and detailing of various strategies of NRHM through a process of stakeholder consultations. Guidelines for various strategies were disseminated to States where institutional framework of the Mission was set up to operationalise the strategies. The State and District Health Missions were operationalised, and Integrated State Health Societies were formed on basis of guidelines issued to the States. A detailed Framework of Implementation of NRHM was also prepared by the Union Government and shared with States for implementation. This framework gives details of strategies, times lines, norms and expected outcomes and assists the States to operationalise the Mission.

To ensure timely completion of the NRHM activities, Ministry convenes regular review meetings of state representatives to clarify operational issues relating to NRHM.

Funds for Panchayati Raj System

1148. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated/released and utilized under the Panchayati Raj system by the State/Union Territories, State-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government of Karnataka has demanded more fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was formed in May, 2004. In 2004-05, the Ministry had only one scheme of Panchayat Development and Training under which funds were released to the State Governments. During 2005-06 also funds were released to the States for training and capacity building of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The details of funds released to the State Governments are given in the enclosed statement. The process of utilization of the funds is continuing and utilization certificates/physical progress reports from the State Governments are yet to be fully received.

(b) and (c) The Government of Karnataka had requested for release of funds for satellite-based training of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions during the year 2005-06.

(d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had sanctioned Rs. 3,63,95,250/- as Central grant of the Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development (ANSSIRD), Mysore, Karnataka and released Rs. 1,81,97,625/- towards first installment of the Central share for imparting satellite based training to elected representatives of Panchayats in Karnataka, in October, 2005. The balance amount would be released during the current year on receipt of Physical Progress Report and the Utilization Certificate.

Statement

Details of State-wise projects approved/funds released

(2004-05)

Andhra Pradesh

APARD, Hyderabad — PRI Trg. Dt.28/2, 23/3, 31/3, 2005	Rs. 3,20,00,000/-	Rs. 3,20,00,000/-
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Maharashtra

Maharashtra — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 92,00,000/-	Rs. 92,00,000/-
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West Bengal

Trg. to elected members of PRIs	Rs. 2,05,96,000/-	Rs. 2,05,96,000/-
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Nagaland

Training of elected Panchayat Representatives	Rs. 2,96,000/-	Rs. 2,96,000/-
Grand Total	Rs. 6,20,92,000/-	Rs. 6,20,92,000/-

Details of State-wise projects approved/funds released

(2005-06)

Haryana Institute of Rural Development (HIRD), Nilokheri—PRI Trg.	Rs. 1,28,12,000/-	
Statement Community Dev. Trg. Centre, Nilokheri, Haryana—Trg. of women representatives of PRIs	Rs. 7,50,000/-	Rs. 1,35,62,000/-

Andhra Pradesh

APARD, Hyderabad — PRI Trg.	Rs. 2,22,49,000/-	Rs. 3,04,64,875/-
APARD, Hyderabad — Accounts Trg.	Rs. 82,15,875/-	

Maharashtra

YASHADA (Maharashtra) — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 2,13,59,500/-	Rs. 3,51,00,884/-
Maharashtra — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,37,41,384/-	

West Bengal

West Bengal — Satellite based Training	Rs. 2,21,25,000/-	Rs. 2,21,25,000/-
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Karnataka

Karnataka — Satellite based Training	Rs. 1,81,97,625/-	Rs. 1,81,97,625/-
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Kerala

Training, through KILA, to different categories of members associated with PRIs	Rs. 44,00,000/-	Rs. 44,00,000/-
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Punjab

SIRD, Nabha, Punjab — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 86,19,500/-	Rs. 86,19,500/-
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Assam

Assam — Capacity building of elected representatives and functionaries of PRIs	Rs. 77,60,363/-	Rs. 94,60,363/-
SIRD, Guwahati — Jan Kerosene Pariyojna — Central Grant	Rs. 17,00,000/-	

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Institute of Rural Dev. — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,47,59,000/-	Rs. 1,94,50,875/-
Chhattisgarh Institute of Rural Dev. — Trg. and awareness programme on Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas in Chhattisgarh	Rs. 46,91,875/-	

Uttaranchal		
UIRD, Uttaranchal — Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,67,74,116/-	Rs. 1,67,74,116/-
Gujarat		
Gujarat — Capacity building for e-governance of the PRIs	Rs. 2,10,00,000/-	Rs. 2,10,00,000/-
Goa		
Goa — Infotech Corp. of Goa Ltd. Goa Infogram Scheme	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Arunachal Pradesh		
Arunachal Pradesh — Construction of Panchayat Extn. Trg. Centres	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
Sikkim		
Sikkim — Establishment of Gram Suchna Kendra	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
Orissa		
SIRD, Orissa — Computerisation of GPs	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
Grand Total	Rs. 25,91,55,238/-	Rs. 25,91,55,238/-

Improvement in Health Infrastructure

1149. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to improve the health infrastructure in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM-2005-2012), Indian Public Standards (IPHS) have been formulated for Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-centres are being formulated for District Hospitals and Sub-districts/Sub-Divisional Hospitals. IPHS proposes the upgradation of these institutions on all fronts including infrastructure. Already, an amount of Rs. 393.80 Crores and Rs. 326.40 Crores

have been released in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for upgradation of CHCs to IPHS. The States have been requested to carry out facility survey to all CHCs so as to estimate the exact financial requirements for upgradation of theirs to IPHS. In addition, Annual Maintenance Grant for improvement and maintenance of physical infrastructure of PHCs @ Rs. 50,000 per PHC has been improved.

(c) Question does not arise.

Alternative Route for Kailash-Mansarovar Pilgrimage

1150. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had proposed to China on several occasions regarding opening of an alternative route for Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the response of China thereto;

(c) the efforts made by the Union Government to make this route operational; and

(d) the current status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government has proposed to the Chinese side the opening of an alternative route to Kailash-Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu and Kashmir or Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh. The Chinese side has cited difficulty in opening these routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications.

(d) During the recent visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20 to 23, 2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route for the Yatra.

Indo-Russia Agreement on Space Exploration

1151. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia proposes to conduct joint space exploration and transfer of space technology under space cooperation agreement;

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

(c) the progress made so far with respect to the said agreement; and

(d) the extent to which India will be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Under Agreement signed on December 3, 2004 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, there is provision for joint space exploration and joint development of technologies in selected areas to be separately agreed upon. This Agreement provides a legal and organisational framework for carrying out different activities of mutual interest.

(c) Several cooperative activities including joint development, operation and utilization of the Russian global navigation satellite system GLONASS, joint

development of a scientific satellite called Youthsat, Indian contribution to a Russian scientific satellite called Coronas-Photon are under various stages of development.

(d) Cooperative activities with Russia under this Agreement will provide India with opportunities to expand the scope of its programmes, to optimise the use of resources and make quicker progress in different areas.

Availing Treatment in Municipal Hospital by CGHS Beneficiaries

1152. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries can undertake medical treatment from Municipal Hospitals;

(b) if so, whether the beneficiaries can get the medicines prescribed by the Municipal Hospitals from the CGHS dispensaries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

Alleged Diversion of Earthquake Relief Funds

1153. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds for Earthquake Relief were allegedly diverted to fund terror by Pakistan;

(b) whether the Union Government had pledged \$ 25 million for Pakistan's earthquake reconstruction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether during the Home Secretary talks between India and Pakistan, earlier this year, India asked for the Jamaat-ud-Dawa boss, Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed, to be handed over to India;

(e) if so, whether India had demanded that some other terrorists who have their base in Pakistan be surrendered to India;

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

(g) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There were reports in the media following the 8 October 2005 earthquake that donations and external relief assistance channelled through domestic religious organisations in Pakistan had benefited jihadi organisations operating there.

(b) and (c) At the international donors' conference organised by the UN Coordinator for Emergency Relief in Geneva in October 2005, the Government of India extended an amount of US\$ 25 million for earthquake relief assistance to the Government of Pakistan. At the donors' conference in Islamabad in November 2005, India reaffirmed its commitment and requested the Government of Pakistan to source reconstruction material from India utilising these funds. An MOU was signed in July 2006 to put in place a procedure for release of this payment directly to the exporting companies from India.

(d) to (g) Government has, from time to time, handed over to Pakistan, lists of fugitives from Indian law wanted for crimes/terrorist acts in India, known to be in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. The issue was again raised during the Home Secretary level talks in Islamabad on May 30-31, 2006 in Islamabad. During the meeting in Havana on September 16, 2006 between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President General Pervez Musharraf, it was agreed to set up an anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to consider counter-terrorism measures. In pursuance of this Joint Statement, a three-member anti-terror mechanism to be headed by Additional Secretaries had been agreed during the Foreign Secretary talks on November 14-15, 2006. Its mandate would be to consider counter-terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information.

[Translation]

Goods Train Services Between India and Pakistan

1154. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether goods train services are running between Munnabao-Khokhrapar and Attari-Lahore in order to promote the trade between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith other routes proposed to be opened in the near future; and

(c) the profit likely to be accrued to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A goods train service is in operation between Attari-Lahore. On an average, about 10-12 freight trains run between the two countries in a month. Pakistan has not agreed to India's proposal of using Munabao-Khokhrapar rail route for trade. The earnings generated by Railways during the two years by goods train services on Attari-Lahore route are : Rs. 31,40,58,928 (2005-06) and Rs. 26,37,07,115 (2004-05).

Indebtedness in Rural/Urban Areas

1155. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita indebtedness in rural and urban areas in the country as on date, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(b) the interest amount paid thereon during the last three years and the current financial year till date; and

(c) the measures adopted by the Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has conducted a survey to assess the household assets and liabilities in the country called "All-India Debt and Investment Survey" in its 59th Round (January-December, 2003) and released a Report entitled "Household Assets and Liabilities in India (as on 30.06.2002)" — (Report No. 500). The State-wise and all India average debt per household in rural and urban areas are given in the enclosed statement. This data is not available on per capita basis, as the Survey assesses the incident of indebtedness for households and not individuals.

In rural areas 41% of loans are taken for farm business and 35% for household expenditure. In urban areas, 55.4% of the borrowings by household are for household expenditure and 19.7% is used for non-farm business.

(b) The data on interest amount paid on debt taken by household is not available. However, as per the Report No. 501 entitled "Household Indebtedness in India as on 30.06.2002" released by the NSSO, as on 30.06.2002, nearly 8% of rural households had cash debt carrying no interest rate, 2% of the household had total cash debt outstanding carrying less than 6% interest rate, 3% of the households had total cash debt outstanding carrying 6 to 10% interest rate and the rest of them had total cash debt outstanding carrying 10% interest rate. For urban areas, 10% of the households had cash debt carrying no interest rate, 3% of the households had total cash debt outstanding carrying less than 6% interest rate, 9% of the households had total cash debt outstanding carrying 6 to 10% interest rate and the rest of them had total cash debt outstanding carrying more than 10% interest rate.

The NSSO has been conducting the "All-India Debt and Investment Survey" once in approximately ten years. As such, the estimates for current financial year and the last three years are not available.

(c) The Government has adopted various measures to reduce the burden of debt for the population like promoting institutional lending to reduce the exploitation by moneylenders charging exorbitant interest rates, priority sector lending for agricultural sector, promoting major initiatives for micro finance and linking of Self Help Groups to the formal banking sector for financing farm production and investment activities. A number of poverty alleviating programmes are also being implemented by the Government, both in rural and urban areas, which cater to the needs of the financially excluded.

Statement

Average Debt per Household as on 30.06.2006

(in Rs.)

States	Urban	Rural
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	19901	10590
2. Assam	2126	643

	1	2	3
3. Bihar		2616	2992
4. Jharkhand		4587	1124
5. Delhi		1441	n.a
6. Gujarat		15715	11794
7. Haryana		12929	12359
8. Himachal Pradesh		25951	5196
9. Jammu and Kashmir		4438	1114
10. Karnataka		10544	9193
11. Kerala		28446	19663
12. Madhya Pradesh		15029	9031
13. Chhattisgarh		8809	3933
14. Maharashtra		15192	10391
15. Orissa		13406	3609
16. Punjab		10297	16502
17. Rajasthan		9130	12031
18. Tamil Nadu		11936	9304
19. Uttaranchal		4484	1113
20. Uttar Pradesh		4275	5059
21. West Bengal		8071	3194
India		11771	7539

Source: NSSO Report No.500, 'Household Assets and Liabilities', pp.31,33.

Failure Analysis Committee on GSLV

1156. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Failure Analysis Committee formed to look into the reasons behind the failure of GSLV has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee;

(c) the steps contemplated to be taken for future missions in view of the findings; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in submitting the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Failure Analysis Committee consisting of experts from ISRO, academia and National Research Laboratory has already submitted its report to the Government.

(b) The Failure Analysis Committee has concluded that the primary cause of mission failure is due to loss of thrust in one of the liquid strap-on motors. The anomalous behaviour was due to malfunctioning of propellant regulator of the gas generator system in one liquid strap-on motor. This resulted in higher propellant mass flow rate than desired, leading to the engine shut-off just after vehicle lift-off. The malfunctioning of the propellant regulator is attributed to the larger flow area due to manufacturing error.

(c) Based on the recommendations made by the Failure Analysis Committee, actions have already been undertaken to further strengthen the quality control and quality assurance procedures both within ISRO and external work centres, independent inspection and quality checks by in-house agencies for all critical components and sub-assemblies on receipt from work centres, review of acceptance procedures and standards. Additional tests have also been introduced for the critical engine components.

(d) Not applicable.

Setting up of National Drug Authority

1157. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the National Drug Authority to regulate the drug industries of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or likely to be taken to monitor the drugs and safeguards the interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is a proposal to set up a Central National Drug Authority of India (CDAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The Government of India had constituted an expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to suggest measures to improve the control and management of drug administration in the country and to review the issues of drug safety, efficacy etc. The major recommendations of this expert committee were agreed by the Government of India. Some of these recommendations include higher penalties for manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious, counterfeit drugs and creation of an independent Central Drug Authority. The draft Bill amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to comply with the aforesaid recommendations is under finalisation.

(c) The manufacture and sale of drugs are controlled under various provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules to ensure availability of safe and effective drugs to the consumers. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also initiated a Pharmacovigilance Programme to monitor drug quality and adverse reactions; and a Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes to raise the consumer awareness in regard to drug safety.

[English]

B-Pharmacy Course

1158. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce 5-year B-Pharmacy Course in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the States which have already introduced 5-years B-Pharmacy Course and accredited by AICTE;

(d) whether Kakatiya University in Andhra Pradesh has introduced 5-year B-Pharmacy Course which is getting positive response from the students and others; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the National Pharmacy Council not recommending 5-year B-Pharmacy Course in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, the Government is not contemplating to introduce any 5-year B-Pharmacy Course in the country.

(c) As per the information available with the Government the All India Technical Education Council (AICTE) has not accredited any 5-year B-Pharmacy Course.

(d) A request for introducing 5 year B-Pharmacy Course was received by AICTE from Kakatiya University of Andhra Pradesh, which was placed in the 25th Meeting of the All India Board of Pharmaceutical Education held on April 7, 2006 but it was decided by the Board not to approve the request received from Kakatiya University.

(e) As per information received from PCI, introduction of 5 years B-Pharmacy Course will not meet the international standards/requirements.

Provisions for Eliminating Corruption

1159. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code, Prevention of Corruption Act and Central Vigilance Commission are bottlenecks in eliminating corruption from Public Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring forward necessary legislation to carry out amendments in these provisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

North-East Infrastructure Development Corporation

1160. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plant to set up a North East Infrastructure Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of budget to be allocated for the said Corporation;

(d) the areas which are likely to be covered by the proposed Corporation; and

(e) the time by which the said Corporation is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Networks in Rural and Tribal Areas

1161. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH
DEO:

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

(a) whether telephone networks have not been set up in remote, rural and tribal areas which are technically viable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of works undertaken by the Government during the last two years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As of now, more than 90% of villages in the country have been provided telephone facilities. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these, 36,014 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st October, 2006. The remaining 30,808 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007. Private Service Providers are generally hesitant to provide services in remote, rural and tribal areas due to consideration of commercial viability.

Details of other works undertaken by the Government to provide telecom facilities in rural and remote areas of the country including tribal areas during the last two years are as follows:

- (i) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs) — As on 31st October, 2006, 33,239 RCPs have been provided.
- (ii) Replacement of 1,86,872 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs — As on 31st October, 2006, 1,63,436 MARR VPTs have been replaced.
- (iii) Provision of Rural individual phone connections (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) — As on 31st October, 2006, 11,13,638 RDELs have been provided.
- (iv) In addition, subsidy is being provided for about 1.09 crore DELs installed in rural areas.

[English]

IT Kiosks in Villages

1162. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate more than Rs. 200 crore for IT kiosks in villages in the country;

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

(c) the details of the action plan contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. The Scheme has been approved at a total cost of Rs. 5742 crores over 4 years, of which the Government of India is estimated to contribute Rs. 856 crore and the State Governments Rs. 793 crores. The balance resources would be mobilized from the private sector.

(b) The CSCs would be established in a ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 census villages in a State.

(c) The detailed guidelines for implementation of the Scheme have been approved by the Government and the same may be seen at the website www.mit.gov.in. The Scheme will be implemented in a Public Private Partnership.

[Translation]

Budgetary Allocation for Medical Systems

1163. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) the names of the Indian Medical Systems under which people are being treated in the country along with the amount allocated in the last two years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether the budgetary allocation is not sufficient to promote Ayurveda;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha are the Indian Systems of Medicine which have been recognised under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970. Funds are not allocated system-wise. The Budget of the Department of AYUSH for the years 2004-05, 2005-

06 and 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) There is not shortage of funds for the promotion of Ayurveda.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply to (b) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

Budget allocation for the Department of AYUSH for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1.	2004-05	173.00	52.73	225.73
2.	2005-06	345.00	60.98	405.98
3.	2006-07	381.60	66.29	447.89

Projects of NHDP

1164. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) the details of various projects undertaken under the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) alongwith the target set for their completion during 2006-07;

(b) the present status of these projects;

(c) the nature of problems affecting the expeditious meeting of targets and the cost escalation as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome these problems;

(e) whether the Government proposes to relax some of the tough conditions set by the new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) affecting the process in awarding

contracts and make provisions to meet the reasonable operational financial demands of the private sector engaged in construction of toll roads; 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) and (b) The status of projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) as on 31.10.2006 is enclosed as statement-I. As per Annual Plan of the Authority for the year 2006-2007, 633 km pertaining to NHDP Phase-I and 650 km pertaining to NHDP Phase-II, is targeted to be 4/6 laned.

(c) The problems affecting the progress of the projects include difficulty in acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, environment and forest clearance, clearance/approval, of Road Over Bridges (ROB) design, poor performance of contractors etc.

(d) A list of steps taken to expedite the projects, is enclosed as statement-II.

(e) and (f) Government is proposing some changes in the Model Concession Agreement which are necessary to overcome operational difficulties such as relaxing pre-condition of handing over of 80% of site on or before appointed date for Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) contracts to avoid damages on part of the Government.

Statement I**Status of projects as on 31.10.2006**

Sl.No.	NHDP Component	Total Length (km.)	Completed 4-lane (km.)	Under Implementation		Balance for award of civil works (Km.)
				Length (km)	No. of contracts	
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5846	5433 (93.3%)	393	35	—
2.	North-South & East-West	7300	840	5055	139	1306*
3.	Port Connectivity	380	122	237	8	21
4.	Other NHs	945	287	638	16	20
5.	NHDP-III A	6139	30	1090	17	5019
6.	NHDP Phase-V	6500	—	148	2	6352
Total		27110	6732	7561	217	12718

*Difference in total length is because of change in length after award of works.

Statement II

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, Shipping, Road Transport and 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 National Highways 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 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.

[English]

Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks

1165. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

- (a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment had submitted any report on pesticide residues in soft drinks;
- (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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) had released a Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks.

In their report CSE had mentioned that a total of 57 soft drink samples of 11 brands were tested for organochlorine pesticides and organophosphorous pesticides. It has been further stated in the report that:-

- Average concentration of total organochlorine was 6.97ppb in all the 57 samples.
- Average concentration organophosphorous pesticides was 4.88ppb in all the 57 samples.
- Average concentration of total pesticides detected in all 57 samples was 11.85 which is 24 times the BIS limit for total pesticide in soft drinks.

In order to examine the facts contained in the CSE Report on analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks,

the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee to examine the methodology of sampling, methodology of testing and validity, as well as the consistency of results derived by CSE.

After detailed deliberation on the report of CSE, the Expert Committee concluded that the results and conclusions reached by the CSE in their report cannot be accepted on its face value. The detailed report of the Expert Committee is available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (www.mohfw.nic.in).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already constituted a National Expert Committee to guide pesticide residue Sub-Committee in fixation of MRIs of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruits vegetables juices and other finished products.

State/UT Governments which are the implementing authorities under the PFA Act have been advised to ensure regular sampling of soft drinks to ensure quality standards are maintained.

A total of 155 soft drinks samples were tested by Central Food Labs at Kolkata, Mysore and Pune as well as State Food Lab, Gujarat between July, 2006 to September, 2006 and as per reports received from testing laboratories pesticide residues were found below the limits specified for bottled drinking water in all tested samples.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1166. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to release second instalment only after ninety per cent utilisation of funds released earlier for centrally sponsored schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has identified the States where the released funds under Centrally sponsored schemes have not been utilised;
- (d) if so, the scheme-wise details of the funds released and utilised/un-utilised therefrom under Centrally sponsored scheme during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government against the States which have failed to utilise the released funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at the present.

(c) to (e) Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments, in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories and are implemented by the State Governments/Union Territories/their agencies. The modality in respect of the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are worked out by the concerned implementing Ministries/Departments of Central Government. These schemes are monitored by the administrative Ministries concerned.

[English]

Funds Allocated/Spent for Sports

1167. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent therefrom, discipline-wise, by the Ministry during the last three years; and

(b) the outcome as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No specific allocations are made for particular sports disciplines under the Schemes of the Ministry, which are aimed to support and supplement the efforts of the State Governments and sports federations in the promotion of sports and achievement of excellence at the national and international levels. As far as specific sports disciplines are concerned, the Ministry is providing funds under the "Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations" (NSFs) for conduct of training, holding coaching camps, with involvement of Indian and foreign coaches as required, participation of teams in international tournaments and events, holding tournaments within the country, equipment support, etc. Year-wise details of funds provided to the NSFs relating to various disciplines are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

The support of the Government of India has helped in raising the performance levels of Indian sportspersons at the international level, and impressive achievements have been observed in a number of disciplines, specially in the fields of Shooting, Archery, Table-Tennis, Billiards and Snooker etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2004-05	2005-06	(Rupees in lakhs)
				2006-07 (As on 15.11.06)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	14.25	13.98	9.00
2.	All India Chess Federation	111.90	78.94	43.09
3.	All India Football Federation	119.36	39.04	14.50
4.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	00.00	00.00	00.00
5.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	30.02	13.43	11.36
6.	Athletics Federation of India	215.08	227.95	71.11
7.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	12.50	07.00	9.49
8.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	14.00	34.57	38.64
9.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	25.00	24.69	1.00

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Archery Association of India	58.95	51.75	33.74
11.	Atya Patya Federation of India	7.50	12.00	10.50
12.	Badminton Association of India	160.16	271.94	45.64
13.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	5.50	00.00	00.00
14.	Basketball Federation of India	49.61	41.21	22.63
15.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	23.52	28.57	8.07
16.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	6.75	00.00	27.25
17.	Cycling Federation of India	16.38	11.73	00.00
18.	Equestrian Federation of India	32.76	31.20	12.10
19.	Fencing Association of India	17.07	43.78	50.76
20.	Gymnastics Federation of India	18.88	14.88	15.25
21.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	81.82	142.74	38.61
22.	Indian Body Building Federation	0.00	00.00	00.00
23.	Indian Golf Union	32.48	37.84	4.38
24.	Indian Hockey Federation	194.21	96.46	80.15
25.	Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association	16.06	36.50	18.13
26.	Indian Olympic Association	1241.45	133.57	393.33
27.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	01.10	0.75
28.	Indian Powerlifting Federation	13.00	15.00	8.00
29.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	79.88	51.41	0.00
30.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	110.35	78.81	56.25
31.	Judo Federation of India	56.37	64.66	37.06
32.	Kho-kho Federation of Indian	18.92	12.00	4.00
33.	Korfbal Federation of India	12.50	09.00	9.50
34.	All India Tennis Association	136.87	77.45	60.20
35.	National Rifle Association of India	218.37	433.43	254.75
36.	Netball Federation of India	7.50	11.50	0.50
37.	Roller Skating Federation of India	15.00	09.00	00.00
38.	Rowing Federation of India	118.43	51.65	8.32

1	2	3	4	5
39.	School Games Federation of India	00.00	00.00	00.00
40.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	7.50	10.50	10.00
41.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	12.00	00.00	00.00
42.	Softball Federation of India	14.00	9.80	4.50
43.	Squash Racket Federation of India	119.37	15.42	21.20
44.	Swimming Federation of India	11.76	53.33	2.67
45.	Table Tennis Federation of India	116.78	165.10	148.25
46.	Taekwondo Federation of India	6.00	00.00	00.00
47.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	10.50	11.00	10.00
48.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	7.00	17.00	4.50
49.	Tug of War Federation of India	12.50	11.50	15.50
50.	Volleyball Federation of India	32.17	94.97	27.56
51.	Women Cricket Association of India	5.00	00.00	1.00
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	225.35	209.82	15.47
53.	Yachting Association of India	159.88	141.30	136.26
54.	Wushu Association of India	10.50	07.10	9.00
55.	Winter Games Federation of India	9.64	12.51	0.39
56.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	01.10	0.75
57.	Para Olympics	00.00	13.50	33.34
58.	Special Olympic Bharat	00.00	00.00	4.50

NGO Study on Toxic Contents in Soft Toys

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

1168. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

(c) the outcome thereof?

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the study conducted by the Non-Governmental Organization regarding toxic contents in unbranded soft toys;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Recently, a news item appeared in the Hindustan Times on 19.9.2006 wherein a report published by an NGO Toxics Links has been quoted. This study, which reports high levels of cadmium and lead in PVC use in soft toys is required to be authenticated/validated and analyzed in the context of regulatory mechanism.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Coal Blocks to Private Companies

1169. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Coal Blocks handed over to private companies since 1991;

(b) the number of such blocks which started coal production;

(c) the number of coal blocks which did not start production;

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in respect of those coal blocks which have not become operational even after passage of sufficient time;

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

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) 55 Coal blocks have been allocated to private sector companies, so far.

(b) Production has commenced in 8 coal blocks.

(c) to (f) Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of about 3 to 5 years to reach production stage and about another two years to reach its optimal production capacity. Progress of development of captive mine and the end use plant by the allocatees of coal blocks is regularly reviewed in the Ministry of Coal at the level of the Additional Secretary (Coal) in which the representatives of the related Ministries/Departments and concerned State Governments also participate.

The allocatees are in various stages of development of coal blocks and installation of their end-use projects. As per the terms and conditions of the letter allocating a coal block in favour of a company, a block is liable for cancellation for unsatisfactory progress in implementation of end-use plant and in development of coal projects as well as for breach of any of the conditions of allocation mentioned therein. So far five coal blocks have already been deallocated. The Government has taken the following

steps to ensure timely and proper development of captive blocks:

(i) Regular monitoring through the Coal Controller's Organisation.

(ii) Periodic review at the Ministry level where other related Ministries/Departments and concerned State Governments are also represented.

(iii) Enforcement of the terms and conditions of mining lease by the State Governments.

(iv) Specific milestones have been laid down for completion of various activities in the development of coal blocks.

(v) A system of bank guarantee has been introduced to ensure optimal production of coal as per the approved mining plan.

Safety Rules in Coal Mines

1170. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety rules are not being followed properly in Coal Mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government conducts any investigation and inspection in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any officer has been held responsible for not adhering to the safety rules properly;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years including the action taken against the erring officials; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per information received from Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder prescribes safe work procedures in the mines. The Mine management is

required to comply with these provisions while working in the mine. Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour and Employment carry out regular inspections of the mines. On detection of urgent and immediate danger in mines, DGMS issues improvement notice and also issues prohibitory order under the Mines Act, 1952. It is imperative on the part of mine management to rectify the violations pointed out during the inspection by DGMS officers.

(c) and (d) The safety provisions are prescribed by the Mines Act, 1952 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. As per Section 18 of the Mines Act, the Owner, Agent and Manager are each responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking such other steps as may be necessary for compliance with the provisions of Act and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Officers of DGMS under the Ministry of Labour and Employment oversee compliance by periodical inspections of Mines. The officers also carry out investigation into all fatal accidents and serious complaints. The details of inspections for the last three years and enquiry made are given as under:

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Enquiries
2003	5574	966
2004	5214	834
2005	5247	933

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of District Health Mission

1171. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the District Health Mission;

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

(c) whether ASHA will be paid wages commensurate with the work under this mission;

(d) whether any policy is being formulated to earmark annual funds to be spent under this mission;

(e) whether for implementation of the said mission areas have been identified according to their population; and

(f) if so, the timeframe fixed for implementation of the said mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, District Health Missions have been set up in all the States.

(c) ASHA is a voluntary worker who shall receive performance linked incentives. She is not envisaged to get any salary/wages.

(d) The allocation under NRHM shall be part of the overall allocation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) and (f) NRHM is being operationalized throughout the country, with special focus on 18 States which includes Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and eight North Eastern States viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. The High Focus States have been selected in view of relatively weaker health and demographic indicators/health infrastructure. The Mission is operative from 2005 to 2012. Population is one of the criteria for allocation of funds to the States.

[English]

Chiranjeevi Yojana

1172. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has assessed "Chiranjeevi Yojana" of the Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the major findings thereof;

(c) whether Chiranjeevi Yojana differs from the Central Government Scheme to prevent maternal mortality during pregnancy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the maternal mortality rate during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The scheme was initially launched in December, 2005 in five Districts of Gujarat on pilot basis, for emergency obstetric care and emergency transport services, primarily for the benefit of socio-economically weaker section. The scheme has since been extended to all the Districts of Gujarat. It is too early to assess the impact of the scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Scheme is slightly different from the 100% centrally sponsored Janani Suraksha Yojana launched by the Central Government to reduce the maternal mortality and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery. While Janani Suraksha Yojana provides cash assistance directly to the pregnant women, under the Chiranjeevi Yojna payment is made to the private health institutions for providing maternity services.

(e) The Registrar General of India has recently brought out a report "MATERNAL MORTALITY IN INDIA: 1997-2003 TRENDS, CAUSES AND RISK FACTORS". As per that report State-wise maternal mortality of some of the major States are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Maternal mortality rate in India

Rank	State/UT/Agency	MMR		
		1997-98	1999-01	2001-03
1	2	3	4	5
	All India	398	327	301
1.	Kerala	150	149	110
2.	Tamil Nadu	131	167	134
3.	Maharashtra	166	169	149
4.	Haryana	136	176	162
5.	Gujarat	46	202	172
6.	Punjab	280	177	178

1	2	3	4	5
7.	West Bengal	303	218	194
8.	Andhra Pradesh	197	220	195
9.	Karnataka	245	266	228
10.	Orissa	346	424	358
11.	Bihar	531	400	371
12.	Madhya Pradesh	441	407	379
13.	Rajasthan	508	501	445
14.	Assam	568	398	490
15.	Uttar Pradesh	606	539	517

Source: 1997-2003, Registrar General, India.

Alleged Indifference of Government Hospitals

1173. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pregnant women have allegedly given birth to children on the footpaths in Delhi and Gurgaon as they were not given admission in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In so far as Central Government Hospital in Delhi are concerned, there has been no such case of any woman giving birth on footpath due to denial of admission by the Hospitals. In regard to Gurgaon, as per information received from the Director General of Health Services, Govt. of Haryana, Panchkula, there has been no case of any pregnant woman giving birth on the footpath because of denial of admission by the Government hospital. Taking notice of news-reports

regarding delivery by a woman in hospital campus in Gurgaon on 10.09.06, an enquiry has been conducted. The enquiry revealed that the patient was admitted in the maternity ward and was examined but probably the attendant/husband of the patient was apprehensive and anxiously took the patient out of the maternity ward in the hospital campus area. Patient was a case of 4th gravida and chances of precipitate delivery are very high in such cases. The patient delivered in the hospital area due to unexpected early outcome of the precipitate delivery. The enquiry committee concluded that as per statement and records there was not fault of the hospital staff in dealing with the patient.

[Translation]

Report of Administrative Reforms Commission

1174. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received the report of the Administrative Reforms Commission;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has so far submitted three reports to the Government namely, (i) Right to Information—Master key to Good Governance, (ii) Unlocking Human Capital — Entitlements and Governance — a case study, and (iii) Crisis Management — From despair to Hope. While the first Report deals with effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the second Report deals with the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The third Report makes

recommendations about effectively meeting crisis situations through systematic preparedness, early warning, quick response and recovery to protect people and structures from disasters and to increase the effectiveness of crisis response and recovery. All the three Reports have been put on the website of the Commission at <http://arc.gov.in> for general information.

(c) and (d) The three Reports have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments as per the subjects allotted to them in the Allocation of the Business Rules for taking necessary action. It is not possible to fix any timeframe at this stage.

[English]

Starting Mobile Hospitals

1175. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned to start mobile hospitals to cope with natural calamities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which such hospitals are likely to start functioning?

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

(b) and (c) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is procuring a pre-fabricated, self contained, container based mobile hospital. This hospital, with 100 beds would have state of art operation theatre; diagnostic facilities including CT scan, kitchen, water purification, sanitary unit and its own power generator. This container based hospital would be located in New Delhi and can be transported by road, rail or air to the disaster sites in any part of the country at short notice.

(d) The mobile hospital will be delivered within four months of placement of orders.

*[Translation]***Work on NH 59-A**

1176. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on National Highway No.59-A from Indore to Betul for its improvement, widening and strengthening has started; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds spent thereon?

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

(b) The details of ongoing works on NH-59A between Indore to Betul under improvement, widening and strengthening and funds spent thereon are as below:-

Head	No. of works	Length Km.	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	Amount spent upto September, 2006 (Rs. in lakh)
IRQP	3	28.60	570.19	282.37
Widening to two lane	2	49.00	1552.95	2.96
Strengthening	—	—	—	—
Total	5	77.60	2123.14	285.33

*[English]***Franchising of Postal Outlets**

1177. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has issued orders for the launch of scheme for franchising postal outlets in urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of number of such outlets notified, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the franchising of postal jobs?

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

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

(c) No postal jobs have been franchised.

Compensation to Bahrain Boat Tragedy Victims

1178. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Indians died in the Bahrain boat tragedy in March 2006;

(b) if so, whether families of victims have received the compensation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the rest of them are likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per information received from the Indian Mission, Bahrain, 22 Indian nationals died in Bahrain boat tragedy in March, 2006.

(b) to (d) No compensation has been received from the Government of Bahrain.

Mine Disaster in Bhatdih Colliery

1179. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enquired into the mine disaster in Bhatdih Colliery under BCCL claiming the lives of around 50 workers;

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

(c) whether alleged negligence on the part of the management in safety matters has been attributed to the said mine collapse;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for the lapse;

(f) the details of relief provided to the families of the deceased as well as workers who were injured in the mine disaster; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment vide notification No. S.O 1756(E) dated 12.10.06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred in Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand, in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received reportable injury. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Report, action will be taken against the persons found responsible for the accident.

(f) The total number of compensation paid to each dependents of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakh depending upon the length of service. This covers payment towards ex-gratia, Life Cover, Benevolent Fund, Funeral expenses. Compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and Gratuity. This also includes additional ex-gratia of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Coal and sanction of Rs. one lakh announced by Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Besides an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has been sanctioned. Besides, payment of Provident Fund through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) is being disbursed. Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen had already been given (including two under-aged male dependents have been kept in employment roster and their mothers have been given monetary compensation till they become major). One lady dependent has opted for monetary

compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one widow will be offered employment pending genuinity of her claim.

(g) Following remedial measures are taken by the coal companies to prevent recurrence of such accidents:

- Promoting participation of workers in safety management.
- Promoting self regulation by management.
- Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.
- Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.
- National Conference on Safety in Mines.
- Interaction at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.
- Conducting Safety Audits.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.
- Directions have been issued to all subsidiary companies of CIL to review the status of safety of mines and rectification of any infirmity.
- Safety status of all Degree-III gassy mines are being re-assessed with respect to gas, stowing, method of extraction in practice and other safety aspects.

[Translation]

BSNL Sim Cards

1180. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL sim cards are being made available to consumers on demand;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sim cards are allegedly being sold at double rates in many States;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of Government as well as Private consumers who availed the mobile connections of BSNL during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL SIM Cards (Mobile connections) are being released on demand in most parts of the country except in few Licensed Service areas namely North East, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh State, where there is a waiting list due to shortage of network capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

(f) 1,19,09,644 mobile connections of BSNL were taken by Government as well as private consumers during the last two financial years. Also during the current financial year, 48,90,293 mobile connections have been released by BSNL.

[English]

Matrimonial Websites

1181. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to check the activities of the matrimonial websites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to monitor and regulate their activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) ITES Sector is de-

licensed and the operations are governed by a mutual agreement between the parties. There are a large number of websites, and it is not required to monitor them on day to day basis. On receipt of any complaint from the parties or any individual the following provisions could be invoked:

(i) penal provisions provided in the Information Technology Act 2000, to take care of online frauds and also publishing of obscene materials.

(ii) under section 69 of the Information Technology Act 2000 for interception of information transmitted through any computer resource, by the Controller of Certifying Authority.

Government of India, Department of Information Technology has established 'Computer Emergency Response team of India' (CERT-In) for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur. CERT-In also assists members of the Indian Community in implementing proactive measures to reduce the risks of computer security incidents.

CERT-In has been authorized for issue of instructions in the context of blocking of web sites.

Use of Hand Pump Water In PHCs

1182. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) for UNICEF in 43 districts from 14 States in the country, only 1/4th of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have tap water in their premises as reported in *The Times of India* dated September 18, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether hand pump water is use in most of PHCs for medical procedure;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has inquired into the deplorable condition of the PHCs in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure basic facilities in PHCs throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 43 districts of the country, 26.3% Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have exclusive tap water source. 17.5% PHCs, as per the survey has private hand pump and 32.6% has public hand pump as the source of water.

Out of 23236 PHCs in the country as on September, 2005 only 16023 are functioning from the Govt. buildings.

Keeping in view the poor conditions of the health facilities, Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under which upgradation of facilities, support to infrastructure supplementary manpower etc. have been taken up. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), an amount of Rs. 25,000/- per PHC has been approved as untied fund for local health action. Also, Annual Maintenance Grant @ Rs. 50,000/- per PHC has been approved for maintenance and improvement of physical infrastructure of PHCs. Also, for upgradation of PHCs to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), the funds are being provided as per State Government's Annual Project Implementation Plan under NRHM.

Funds for Commonwealth Games, 2010

1183. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

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

(a) whether preparations for Commonwealth Games, 2010, are facing serious financial crunch;

(b) if so, the projected cost thereof and the funds made available therefor from different sources; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to make adequate funds available?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per present estimates the projected cost for the Games will be around 3500.00 crores. Against this budget estimates of the Organising Committee Commonwealth Games for Conduct of the Games (Rs. 767.00 crores \pm 15%), Delhi Development Authority for the Games Village and sports venue infrastructure (Rs. 325.00 crores \pm 20%) and the Sports Authority of India for upgradation of its stadia (Rs. 1000.00 crores \pm 10%) and creation of additional facilities have already been recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee for funding through Government of India, based on which funds are being released to the agencies concerned in a phased manner. The proposal of the Government of NCT of Delhi for Rs. 770.00 crores for works related to upgradation of civic infrastructure and the sports infrastructure assigned to the Government of NCT of Delhi and NDMC have been approved in principle by the Planning Commission. These approvals cover all the key elements of the infrastructure, etc., required for the Games. Government is closely monitoring the progress of the Commonwealth Games, 2010 related projects through various institutional mechanisms so as to ensure their timely completion.

Post Reserved for Physically Challenged

1184. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of posts in various Central Government Departments reserved for the physically challenged;

(b) whether any posts reserved for the physically challenged have been lying vacant for a long time;

(c) if so, the percentage of vacant posts and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill these posts?

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) Three percent vacancies in identified posts in services under the Government of India are reserved for the persons with disabilities.

(b) There is a provision of carrying forward of backlog reserved vacancies of persons with disabilities for one year only. The question of such posts lying vacant for a very long time does not arise.

(c) Information is not centrally maintained.

(d) Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/ Departments to ensure that the policy relating to reservation for persons with disabilities should be implemented in right earnest. Instructions have also been issued that a certificate to the effect that the policy relating to reservation for persons with disability has been taken care of should be given, while sending requisition to the UPSC, SSC etc. for filling up of posts which have been identified as suitable for being manned by persons with disabilities.

[*Translation*]

Opening Community/Primary Health Centres

1185. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open Primary/Community Health Centres in all the villages and particularly the backward villages of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of villages where no Community/Primary Health Centre have been opened so far;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated by the Government as on date, State-wise, to open new Community/Primary Health Centres during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the targeted number of Community/Primary Health Centres to be opened during the next financial year and the amount to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The health care infrastructure in rural areas has been developed as a three tier system and is based on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal/ Difficult Area
Sub-centre	5,000	3,000
Primary Health Centre	30,000	20,000
Community Health Centre	1,20,000	80,000

Average number of villages covered by a PHC is 27 and by a CHC is 191. There are 23236 PHCs and 3346 CHCs functioning in the country as on September, 2005. As per 2001 norms, the shortfall in the number of PHCs countrywide is 4337 as against the requirement of 26022 PHCs. The number of CHCs in shortfall are 3206 as against the requirement of 6491 CHCs.

(c) State-wise approved, revised outlay and actual expenditure 2003-04, 2004-05; approved & revised outlay 2005-06 and approved outlay 2006-07 under Medical and Public Health from which expenditure for setting up of new PHCs/CHCs is done is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The 10th Plan target for opening up of PHCs and CHCs is 1714 and 2565 respectively. State/UT-wise achievements during 10th Plan is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Medical and Public Health

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		2006-07
		Ap outlay	Re. outlay	Act. Exp.	Ap outlay	Rs. outlay	Act. Exp.	Ap outlay	Re. outlay	Ap. Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40995.5	38615.04	35362.36	40995.44	40995.44	31427.72	43269.24	34769.24	53574.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2201.05	2201.05	2099.23	2781.50	2781.35	3185.00		1417.00	1970.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Assam	7682.00	7882.00	7631.46	6529.00	6529.00	6529.00	5687.00	7882.00	
4.	Bihar	13698.79	10993.59	12343.11	14182.02	15082.02	14389.78	12721.80	16318.30	13700.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8083.00	8083.00	11736.00	15076.00	15076.00	12462.54	14287.44	12122.33	33249.90
6.	Goa	3174.99	2624.70	2588.54	3521.33	4070.05	3149.21		2568.54	4495.00
7.	Gujarat	25221.00	22221.00	21472.13	25294.00	25294.00	25294.00	43494.00	21472.13	45994.00
8.	Haryana	7800.00	5900.00	5757.51	7124.00	6314.00	5843.78	10200.00	10250.00	11450.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	19517.07	20196.22	18066.07	18295.79	18779.98	19734.27	18476.60	19050.81	19948.92
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14863.66	15695.66	13752.90	16330.87	18933.29	17748.78	21061.70	13752.90	21864.25
11.	Jharkhand	9700.00	9700.00	6339.98	14040.00	14040.00	13371.59	15000.00	15000.00	26800.00
12.	Karnataka	13974.00	16884.66	19189.66	18011.51	15731.51	15731.51	33239.29	28920.80	34098.61
13.	Kerala	9748.00	8485.00	5882.27	10130.00	5227.25	6813.87	10035.00	11901.56	9650.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4528.50	13088.15	15444.43	20298.09	20292.44	17763.95	20587.00	15444.43	16961.91
15.	Maharashtra	76435.18	62065.41	33244.78	18663.93	18663.93	31192.05	77874.10	33244.78	88228.54
16.	Manipur	2280.00	2280.00	940.96	1915.91	1965.61	789.52	351.00	940.96	2637.00
17.	Meghalaya	3550.00	3800.00	3773.09	4042.00	4242.00	4071.33	4484.00	3773.00	4750.00
18.	Mizoram	2975.00	4105.40	4185.67	3000.00	3027.90	2950.10	3480.00	4185.67	4000.00
19.	Nagaland	2383.00	2383.00	2514.00	2207.15	2219.15	2114.87	2263.00	2514.00	2363.00
20.	Orissa	21694.42	13449.42	9256.11	11739.19	6474.19	10281.41	14348.19	9256.11	4052.20
21.	Punjab	10450.47	12192.29	5971.99	7508.93	8766.20	2133.32	2743.13	5971.99	5019.10
22.	Rajasthan	8236.02	7458.98	5434.80	10811.56	10963.88	9736.64	18605.59	5434.80	20618.60
23.	Sikkim	1606.00	1626.00	1454.87	2210.00	2210.00	2200.56	1840.00	1454.87	1690.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	16314.44	16164.44	15963.39	19400.66	19400.66	17402.60	26874.17	15963.39	
25.	Tripura	2013.34	3198.44	2107.23	2535.36	4452.31	3040.42	2813.10	2243.86	6459.60
26.	Uttaranchal	7358.71	7358.31	6315.44	8759.31	8759.31	9978.76	8790.92	6302.53	18600.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	33927.00	22600.00	19745.93	33009.00	33009.00	38352.82	85421.00	19745.63	188763.00
28.	West Bengal	21192.98	26715.98	18584.87	23739.80	19261.69	15392.06	40207.80	18590.41	44289.68
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2150.00	2160.00	2312.26	2390.00	2390.00	2382.96	3321.00	2312.26	3200.00
30.	Chandigarh	3111.00	3111.00	3546.75	3477.00	3477.00	3355.33	3392.00	3546.75	3587.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	266.00	266.00	301.67	343.00	343.00	403.20	400.00	301.67	470.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Daman and Diu	228.00	227.00	282.85	290.00	290.00	301.03	350.00	282.85	414.00
33.	Delhi	42692.00	42179.55	38942.11	53775.00	52306.60	46989.16	60600.00	38942.11	69120.00
34.	Lakshadweep	227.00	235.00	228.24	225.00	225.00	166.73	242.00	264.90	17800.00
35.	Pondicherry	3205.00	3264.48	3259.04	4160.00	4149.04	4196.59	5835.00	3259.04	9485.00
	Total	457059.29	419411.2	356011.7	426812.2	415743.1	400876.4	612095.1	389402	767639.3

*Statement II**Tenth Plan Targets and Achievements against the targets in Rural Health Infrastructure*

Sl.No.	State/UT	PHC		CHC	
		Tenth Plan Target	Achievements during Tenth Plan (upto September, 2005)	Tenth Plan Target	Achievements during Tenth Plan (upto September, 2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	321	184	208	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh				
3.	Assam	116	0	81	0
4.	Bihar	319	6	403	14
5.	Chhattisgarh	159	0	26	0
6.	Goa	4	0	1	0
7.	Gujarat			4	4
8.	Haryana	12	6	39	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh				
10.	Jammu and Kashmir				
11.	Jharkhand	115	0	122	0
12.	Karnataka			19	5
13.	Kerala			75	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	123	0	100	0
15.	Maharashtra			88	31
16.	Manipur				
17.	Meghalaya			6	6

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Mizoram				
19.	Nagaland	8	8	5	5
20.	Orissa			108	74
21.	Punjab			14	11
22.	Rajasthan			49	49
23.	Sikkim			2	2
24.	Tamil Nadu			237	0
25.	Tripura	38	15	13	0
26.	Uttaranchal	8	0	36	14
27.	Uttar Pradesh			588	106
28.	West Bengal	464	0	332	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands				
30.	Chandigarh	2	0		
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	1	0
32.	Daman and Diu				
33.	Delhi	24	0	8	0
34.	Lakshadweep				
35.	Pondicherry				
	All India	1714	219	2565	330

Note: The achievement are based on the number of centres reported functioning by the States/UTs in the Quarterly Progress.

Report on Rural Health Services, ignoring the surplus as compared to targets given in some States. The achievement is worked out on the basis of addition in centres reported functioning as compared the position at the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan.

The figures of achievement are provisional.

[English]

Expansion in Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

1186. 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 has been expanded during the year 2006-2007;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Total exchange capacity added during the year 2006-07 is 2880 lines (addition of 480 lines

each at 6 sites, at a total expenditure of Rs. 15,70,591/-) at following places:

- (i) M. Sector Waluj
- (ii) Mohanlal Nagar
- (iii) Garkheda
- (iv) Shivaji Nagar
- (v) Silk Mill Colony
- (vi) Badave Engg. Waluj

Apart from above, 6 Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have also been provided (having capacity of 750 lines each) during this period as follows, at a total cost of Rs. 20,96,497/-

- (i) Mahalgaon
- (ii) Chineholi Limbaji
- (iii) Soyegaon
- (iv) Golegaon
- (v) Phulambri
- (vi) Khuldabad

New Infrastructure Policy

1187. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to introduce New Infrastructure Policy as reported in the Hindi daily *Navbharat Times* dated October 08, 2006;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fix norms for honest and fair contracts for different works under this Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) to (d)

Infrastructure is critical for improving the productivity and enhancing the competitiveness of the economy across all sectors. Infrastructure development requires huge resources. This would require a very significant scaling up of investment from the public as well as private sectors. While public investment in infrastructure would continue to increase, the role of public private participation (PPP) needs to expand significantly to address the existing deficit in infrastructure services.

With a view to creating an enabling environment that would improve predictability, mitigate risks for PPPs, and reduce transaction costs and time, Government is creating appropriate institutional mechanisms and modernizing the policy and regulatory framework. Among other aspects, this includes standardizing and streamlining of documents, processes and procedures including the use of Model Concession Agreements.

Assistance to National Sports Federations

1188. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance granted and disbursed to the National Sports Federations for sending various teams abroad for training and participation in international tournaments during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date, event-wise;

(b) the criteria of scrutiny of such expenditure;

(c) whether the disbursed amount has been properly utilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the misutilisation of such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The financial assistance provided to the National Sports Federations (NSFs), discipline-wise, for various purposes including sending of various teams abroad for training and participation in international events during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto 15-11-2006) is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (f) To ensure power utilization of Government assistance, the Government releases 75% of the admissible assistance as advance and further assistance is released on receipt of audited statement of accounts alongwith original bills/vouchers, utilization certificate and

report of the event from the federation. Also this Ministry has issued sanction for audit of NSFs getting assistance exceeding Rs. One crore in a year through Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as on 15.11.06)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation	14.25	13.98	9.00
2.	All India Chess Federation	111.90	78.94	43.09
3.	All India Football Federation	119.36	39.04	14.50
4.	All India Karate-Do-Federation	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	30.02	13.43	11.36
6.	Athletics Federation of India	215.08	227.95	71.11
7.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	12.50	7.00	9.49
8.	Amateur Handball Federation of India	14.00	34.57	38.64
9.	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	25.00	24.69	1.00
10.	Archery Association of India	58.95	51.75	33.74
11.	Atya Patya Federation of India	7.50	12.00	10.50
12.	Badminton Association of India	160.16	271.94	45.64
13.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	5.50	0.00	0.00
14.	Basketball Federation of India	49.61	41.21	22.63
15.	Billiards and Snooker Federation of India	23.52	28.57	8.07
16.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	6.75	0.00	27.25
17.	Cycling Federation of India	16.38	11.73	0.00
18.	Equestrian Federation of India	32.76	31.20	12.10
19.	Fencing Association of India	17.07	43.78	50.76
20.	Gymnastic Federation of India	18.88	14.88	15.25
21.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	81.28	142.74	38.61
22.	Indian Body Building Federation	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Indian Golf Union	32.48	37.84	4.38
24.	Indian Hockey Federation	194.21	96.46	80.15
25.	Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association	16.06	36.50	18.13
26.	Indian Olympic Association	1241.45	133.57	393.33
27.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	1.10	0.75
28.	Indian Powerlifting Federation	13.00	15.00	8.00
29.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	79.88	51.41	0.00
30.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	110.35	78.81	56.25
31.	Judo Federation of India	56.37	64.66	37.06
32.	Kho-kho Federation of India	18.92	12.00	4.00
33.	Korfball Federation of India	12.50	9.00	9.50
34.	All India Tennis Association	136.87	77.45	60.20
35.	National Rifle Association of India	218.37	433.43	254.75
36.	Netball Federation of India	7.50	11.50	0.50
37.	Roller Skating Federation of India	15.00	9.00	0.00
38.	Rowing Federation of India	118.43	51.65	8.32
39.	School Games Federation of India	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	7.50	10.50	10.00
41.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	12.00	0.00	0.00
42.	Softball Federation of India	14.00	9.80	4.50
43.	Squash Racket Federation of India	119.37	15.42	21.20
44.	Swimming Federation of India	11.76	53.33	2.67
45.	Table Tennis Federation of India	116.78	165.10	148.25
46.	Taekwondo Federation of India	6.00	0.00	0.00
47.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	10.50	11.00	10.00
48.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	7.00	17.00	4.50
49.	Tug of War Federation of India	12.50	11.50	15.50
50.	Volleyball Federation of India	32.17	94.97	27.56
51.	Women Cricket Association of India	5.00	0.00	1.00

1	2	3	4	5
52.	Wrestling Federation of India	225.35	209.82	15.47
53.	Yachting Association of India	159.88	141.30	136.26
54.	Wushu Association of India	10.50	7.10	9.00
55.	Winter Games Federation of India	9.64	12.51	0.39
56.	Indian Polo Association	1.62	1.10	0.75
57.	Para Olympics	0.00	13.50	33.34
58.	Special Olympic Bharat	0.00	0.00	4.50

Visa to Chinese Businessmen

1189. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has shown concern about not granting visa to its businessmen by India;

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

(c) the reaction of India thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to improve relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Visas for Chinese nationals are issued in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and China of June 23, 2003. Issues relating to the implementation of this MOU are discussed between the two sides from time to time. Government has issued modified guidelines on October 11, 2006 on the implementation of the understandings contained in the above-mentioned MOU.

(d) The Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the recent visit of President Hu Jintao to India spells out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence

cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.

Increase in Diabetic Patients

1190. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has analysed the causes for the increasing number of diabetic patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 'Burden of diseases' it is estimated that there are 37.77 million diabetics in India in 2004. The rise in the number of cases is mainly related to changing life style patterns.

Type 1 diabetes may account for 5% to 10% of all diagnosed cases of diabetes and environmental factors are involved in the development of this type of diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes may account for about 90% to 95% of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. Risk factors for type 2 diabetes include older age, obesity, family history of diabetes, prior history of gestational diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, physical inactivity and race/ethnicity.

Gestational diabetes develops in 2% to 5% of all pregnancies but usually disappears when a pregnancy is over.

Other specific types of diabetes result from specific genetic syndromes, surgery, drugs malnutrition, infections, and other illnesses. Such types of diabetes may account for 1% to 2% of all diagnosed cases of diabetes.

(d) The Pilot Project of the proposed National Programme on prevention and control of Diabetes, Cardio Vascular diseases and stroke is being initiated in 2006-07 with emphasis on prevention and early detection of the disease, management and avoidance of complications. The programme would also help in reducing modifiable risk factors through interventions at various levels.

Speed Post/Express Parcel Post Treated as Local

1191. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has any proposals to treat Speed Post and Express Parcel Post in NCR, Delhi and other neighbouring towns of all metro cities as local;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected revenue likely to be generated to the Postal Department; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Department of Posts has decided that Speed Post and Express Parcel Post articles booked in and destined for Delhi/New Delhi, Ghaziabad, NOIDA, Gurgaon and Faridabad would be treated as 'local' for the purpose of determining the tariff. These orders came into effect from 15th August, 2006.

At present there is no proposal with the Department of Posts to treat Speed Post articles and Express Parcel Post articles booked in and destined for any other metro city and their neighbouring towns as 'local'.

The primary objective of this initiative is not to raise additional revenue but to provide a customer friendly service to the people residing in NCT of Delhi and the districts that share border with NCT of Delhi.

[Translation]

Postal Delivery System in Rural Areas

1192. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the date when the Government had last reviewed the postal delivery system in rural areas;

(b) the outcome of the said review; and

(c) the action taken by the Government based on the outcome of the said review to improve the rural postal delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Periodical review of delivery system in rural areas is a continuous process and this is done meticulously every month. The Postal Circles follow a well-defined procedure to check delivery system in the rural areas through these provisions. In addition, on receipt of a complaint from members of the public or surprise checks by the officials of the Department, the reasons for delay, if any, are analysed and corrective measures are taken. The last review was done in October, 2006 by Postal Circles.

(b) Results of the said review is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Based on the said review, delivery system in rural areas is being strengthened through minimizing transmission time, review of existing offices and consolidation of mail delivery system.

Statement**Results of review of the postal delivery system
in rural areas**

Circle	% of articles delivered as per norms (Rural Mail)
Andhra Pradesh	94.41
Assam	94
Bihar	92
Chhattisgarh	95.7
Delhi	97.53
Gujarat	98.63
Haryana	98.64
Himachal Pradesh	97.5
Jammu and Kashmir	91.3
Jharkhand	94.9
Karnataka	87.3
Kerala	95
Madhya Pradesh	95.5
Maharashtra	91.11
North East	Report awaited
Orissa	93.63
Punjab	90
Rajasthan	96.67
Tamil Nadu	90.25
Uttar Pradesh	95.67
Uttaranchal	98
West Bengal	94.5

Indians Killed in Arab Countries

1183. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the Indians killed in Arab countries;

(b) if so, the number of Indians killed in these countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(c) the number out of them who died natural and unnatural deaths;

(d) whether the necessary information has been sought from all these countries in this regard;

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

(f) whether compensation has been paid in all these cases; and

(g) if not, the time by which the pending compensation cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) (a) Yes. The Government of India periodically reviews the situation.

(b) to (e) A Statement giving details, year-wise and country-wise, along with causes of death, of Indians, who died in Arab countries during the last three years is enclosed.

(f) and (g) While in most of the cases compensation has been settled, in some, settlement is under process for various procedural reasons. Missions/Posts abroad regularly liaise with the employers of Indian nationals, who die abroad, for an early settlement of due compensation.

Statement

Number of Indians killed/died in Arab countries during 2003, 2004 and 2005

Country/Year	Number of deaths reported	Cause of death
1	2	3
Algeria		
2003	Nil	N.A.
2004	Nil	N.A.
2005	Nil	N.A.
Bahrain		
2003	147	Natural/accident/suicide
2004	172	Natural/accident/suicide
2005	164	Natural/accident/suicide
Djibouti and Ethiopia		
2003	2	2 — Natural
2004	6	6 — Natural
2005	2	2 — Natural
Egypt		
2003	5	4 — Natural, 1 — Accident
2004	7	4 — Natural, 3 — Accident
2005	1	Natural
Iraq		
2003	5	1 — Natural, 4 — Accidents
2004	9	1 — Natural, 8 — Accidents
2005	9	3 — Natural, 6 — Accidents

1	2	3
Jordan		
2003	Nil	N.A.
2004	8	6 — Illness, 2 — Accident
2005	5	4 — Illness, 1 — Accident
Kuwait		
2003	313	203 — Natural, 64 — Accidents, 46 — Others
2004	358	228 — Natural, 71 — Accidents, 59 — Others
2005	389	259 — Natural, 85 — Accidents, 45 — Others
Lebanon		
2003	23	13 — Illness, 9 — Accidents, 1 — Suicide
2004	26	18 — Illness, 6 — Accidents, 2 — Other
2005	17	8 — Illness, 4 — Accidents, 5 — Other
Libya		
2003	23	18 — Natural, 5 — accident
2004	16	11 — Natural, 5 — accident
2005	8	8 — Natural
Tunisia		
2003	Nil	N.A.
2004	Nil	N.A.
2005	Nil	N.A.

1	2	3
Morocco		
2003	Nil	N.A.
2004	Nil	N.A.
2005	Nil	N.A.
Oman		
2003	337	Natural/accident/suicide
2004	345	208 — Natural, 137 — Other/accident/ suicide
2005	345	212 — Natural, 133 — Other/accident/ suicide
Qatar		
2003	13	Not known
2004	27	Not known
2005	28	Not known
Saudi Arabia		
2003	1114	675 — Natural, 315 — Accident, 124 — Other
2004	1176	693 — Natural, 340 — Accident, 143 — Other
2005	1268	762 — Natural, 373 — Accident, 133 — Other
Sudan		
2003	2	Accident/illness
2004	2	Accident
2005	2	Accident/illness
Syria		
2003	2	2 — Illness (hearth attack)
2004	2	1 — Accident, 1 — Natural cause
2005	2	2 — Natural death

1	2	3
UAE		
2003	967	Natural/accident/suicide
2004	1139	Natural/accident/suicide
2005	1272	Natural/accident/suicide
Yemen		
2003	3	3 — Natural cause
2004	6	6 — Natural cause
2005	6	6 — Natural cause

No statistics available in respect of Mauritania, Comoros and Somalia — No resident Indian Mission.

[English]

Use of IT In Health Care Initiatives

1194. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering effective use of IT in health care initiatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The various IT initiatives used in health care are as below:

- (i) Creation and Maintenance of Web site of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and its attached office like Directorate General of Health Services and Subordinate Offices, Registered Institutions, Health and Family Welfare Societies and other autonomous bodies in Health Sector.

- (ii) Creation of Interhealth portal that provides personalized, role base and secure access to office information to the personnel of the Ministry.
- (iii) Installation of office procedure automation software in phased manner to monitor the file/ official paper movements within the Ministry.
- (iv) Implementation/Installation of the Web-based software to maintain the database of beneficiaries under Central Government Health Scheme.
- (v) Providing facility for video conferencing/web conferencing for monitoring National Health Programmes between the Centre, State and District Programme Coordinators.
- (vi) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project for collecting the specific key disease indicators from sub centre onwards in the country using web based software.
- (vii) Under World Bank Assisted Project, 105 Food and Adulteration testing labs across the country are being networked through high-speed broadband connectivity.
- (viii) Central Bureau of Health Intelligence is developing a web-base GIS Mapping for Government Health Facilities in the country with the objective to enable quantitative and qualitative assessment of health facilities in terms of infrastructure up to village health.
- (ix) Developed system for electronic transfer of funds to the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Besides above, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering proposals from National and International organizations of Health Sector for collaborative work on capacity building and improving delivery of health care services on nation-wide basis using modern I.T. tools and technologies.

Opening Borders for Trade

1195. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to open up the borders of North-Eastern States with the neighbouring countries to improve border trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue around 5000 passports to truck drivers to improve border trade with neighbouring countries;

(d) if so, whether discussions are also underway to resolve pending border issues with such countries;

(e) if so, the details of meetings held in this regard during the last two years, country-wise; and

(f) the likely increase in trade activities as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government has decided to set up several state-of-the-art Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along the India-Myanmar and India-Bangladesh borders. Details of these ICPs are given in the enclosed statement.

India has an open border with Bhutan and there exists a free trade regime under a bilateral agreement between the two countries. Trade infrastructure along India's borders with Bhutan is being improved; entry/exit points have been increased to 16 in 2006 from 12.

(c) A proposal has been received for issue of passports to truck drivers operating between India and Bangladesh for trade.

(d) and (e) The India-Bhutan Border Management and Security Group meets every year to discuss issues relating to security and management of the border between the two countries. Border District Coordination meetings are held annually to promote closer interaction and coordination on border-related issues of mutual concern at the field level.

India and China appointed in June 2003, Special Representatives on the boundary question. They have held eight meetings so far; the last meeting was held in China in June 2006.

With Bangladesh, border related issues are discussed in the Joint Boundary Working Group, which met in July 2006 in Dhaka.

With Myanmar, these issues are discussed annually at the national level. The delegations are led by the Home Secretaries. The last meeting was held in September 2006. Sectoral and field level issues are discussed in meetings of senior officials held annually (last meeting in May 2006) and Army Border Liaison Meeting held

biannually (last meeting in October 2006).

(f) Improved border connectivity and contacts are expected to bring economic benefit to the people of the North Eastern States and provide a fillip to India's trade with countries in this region.

Statement

Location of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)

Sl.No.	Location	State	Border
Priority I			
1.	Petrapole	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
2.	Moreh	Manipur	India-Myanmar
Priority II			
3.	Illi	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
4.	Chandrabangha	West Bengal	India-Bangladesh
5.	Sutarkhandi	Assam	India-Bangladesh
6.	Dawki	Meghalaya	India-Bangladesh
7.	Akhaura	Tripura	India-Bangladesh
8.	Kawarpuchiah	Mizoram	India-Bangladesh

Extending Coverage of DOTS

1196. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the number of T.B. patients who fall prey to it every year in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the number of persons put on Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS);

(d) whether the entire country has been covered under DOTS;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered under DOTS; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for the eradication of T.B.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A nationwide cross-sectional study was conducted in different zones of India to assess the prevailing epidemiological situation of TB in the country by estimating the Annual Risk of TB Infection (ARTI) between January, 2000 and 2003.

As per the study, the National ARTI is 1.5%. As per the estimate, there are around 168 new TB cases per lakh population in India totalling to nearly 18 lakh new TB cases per year.

(c) Since the launching of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) from 1997, over 63 lakhs patients have been put on DOTS.

(d) Yes Sir. By March, 2006 entire country has been covered under DOTS.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) To control TB, with an objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, was implemented in the country in a phased manner from 1997 and the entire country had been covered by March 2006. Under RNTCP diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 63.00 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 11.33 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1.0 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2005 alone, India placed more than 12.93 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a singly year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, Special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy.

Training to Panchayati Raj Representatives

1197. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Karnataka for imparting training to the representatives of Panchayati Raj and Gram Swaraj;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to accord its approval?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was received in 2005 from Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development (ANSSIRD), Mysore, Karnataka, for Satellite based Training to the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) The Union Government accepted the proposal and a sum of Rs. 3,63,95,250/- was sanctioned as Central Government grant to Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development (ANSSIRD), Mysore, Karnataka, out of which the first installment of Rs. 1,81,97,625/- was released in October, 2005. The balance amount would be released during the current year, after receipt of Utilisation Certificate and Progress report.

Backward Region Grant Fund

1198. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Panchayat Raj asked the State Governments to give their suggestions on the Backward Region Grant Fund;

(b) if so, the States that have given their suggestions;

(c) the details of suggestions that have so far been received by the Government;

(d) whether the fund presently covers only 250 districts in the country;

(e) if so, the details of such districts, State-wise;

(f) the details of States which have formed the District Planning Committees for this Fund; and

(g) the reasons for non-constitution of the Committee by other States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Arrangements for the implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund constituted one of the Agenda items for the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Administrative and Financial Strengthening of Panchayats, held on 13th September, 2006. The salient features of the Backward Regions Programme Fund were presented to the Empowered Sub-Committee during the meeting. The draft guidelines for the programme had also been circulated earlier to the States as part of the process of consultation with the State Governments. Consultations were held with the representatives of the State Governments during the meeting of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj held on 13th September, 2006 and during the meeting of the State Secretaries of Panchayati Raj held of 10th November, 2006. The major suggestions received from the States are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, any districts carved out of these districts after 2001 would be included with the proviso that the fund allocated for the original district would be shared between the two districts created from the earlier undivided district covered under BRGF.

(e) A State-wise list of districts selected under BRGF is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(f) and (g) Setting up of District Planning Committees (DPCs) is a mandatory obligation under Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The Constitution enjoins that all States and Union Territories (except Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, the Hill areas in the State of Manipur, the Hill Areas of the District of Darjeeling for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists, the NCT of Delhi and Sixth Schedule Areas where Autonomous District Councils have been constituted), to set up DPCs in order to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities into the draft development plans for the district. 23 of the 27 States which have districts covered under the Backward Region Grant Fund are required to set up DPCs under the Constitutional provision. Only 12 of these 23 States have set up DPCs. Details are given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement I

Major suggestions made by State Governments during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee held on 13.9.2006 and subsequent consultations

1. Bihar The constitution of DPCs, completion of activity mapping and preparation of training calendar should be the prerequisites to be completed before 31st March, 2007. The States should be allowed to complete their 'desirable' prerequisite during the year 2007-08. The programme should commence in erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana districts simultaneously.
2. Haryana Mewat District should be included in the scheme. States should be consulted while selecting districts to be covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund.
3. Himachal Pradesh Block should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds.
4. Gujarat Tehsil should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds. Kutch should be included in the list of districts selected for the programme.
5. Jharkhand There must be the provision of a Saving Clause for those Panchayats where elections cannot be held because of certain unforeseen circumstances such as Court Intervention etc.
6. Karnataka Taluks should have been the basic units for selection under Backward Regions Grant Fund.
7. Kerala Backward Regions Grant Fund may be permitted to commence straightaway in all erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana Districts, without waiting for the

- latter to be completed. Directions should be issued to Central Ministries implementing flagship programmes to adopt a decentralised planning methodology, to enable the BRGF otherwise it would be difficult to operationalise suggestions for decentralized planning for the programme.
8. Madhya Pradesh The scheme should concentrate on generic provisions in view of the differences in the geographical status and socio-economic development of the States.
9. Tripura SC/ST population should be taken into account in addition to area and population for allocation of funds. North Tripura and South Tripura districts should be included in the list.
10. Uttar Pradesh Constitution of DPCs should not be a pre-requisite during 2006-07.
11. Uttaranchal Districts covered under the schemes should be changed on rotation basis.
12. West Bengal Block should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds.

Statement II**Backward Region Grant Fund—List of Districts****Andhra Pradesh**

1. Adilabad
2. Anantpur
3. Chittoor
4. Cuddappah
5. Karimnagar
6. Khammam

7. Mahbubnagar
8. Medak
9. Nalgonda
10. Nizamabad
11. Rangareddy
12. Vizianagaram
13. Warangal

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

1. Barpeta
2. Bongaigaon
3. Cachar
4. Dhemaji
5. Goalpara
6. Hailakandi
7. Karbi Anglong
8. Kokrajhar
9. Marigaon
10. North Lakhimpur (Laksha)
11. North Cachar Hills

Bihar

1. Araria
2. Aurangabad
3. Banka
4. Begusarai
5. Bhagalpur
6. Bhojpur
7. Buxar
8. Darbhanga
9. Gaya
10. Gopalganj

11. Jamui
12. Jehanabad
13. Kaimur/Bhabua
14. Katihar
15. Kishanganj
16. Khagaria
17. Lakhisarai
18. Madhepura
19. Madhubani
20. Munger
21. Muzzarffarpur
22. Nalanda
23. Nawadah
24. Patna
25. Pashchim Champaran
26. Purba Champaran
27. Purnia
28. Rohtas
29. Saharsa
30. Samastipur
31. Saran
32. Sheikhpura
33. Sheohar
34. Sitamarhi
35. Supaul
36. Vaishali

Chhattisgarh

1. Bastar
2. Bilaspur
3. Dantewada

4. Dhamtari
5. Jashpur
6. Kanker
7. Kawardha
8. Korba
9. Koriya
10. Mahasamund
11. Raigarh
12. Rajnandgaon
13. Sarguja

Gujarat

1. Banaskantha
2. Dangs
3. Dahod
4. Narmada
5. Panch Mahals
6. Sabarkantha

Haryana

1. Mohindergarh
2. Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

1. Chamba
2. Sirmaur

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Doda
2. Kupwara
3. Poonch

Jharkhand

1. Bokaro
2. Chatra

3. Deoghar
4. Dhanbad
5. Dumka
6. Garhwa
7. Giridih
8. Godda
9. Gumla
10. Hazaribagh
11. Jamtara
12. Kodarma
13. Latehar
14. Lohardagga
15. Pacchim Singhbhum
16. Pakaur
17. Palamu
18. Ranchi
19. Sahibganj
20. Saraikela
21. Simdega

Karnataka

1. Bidar
2. Chitradurga
3. Davangere
4. Gulbarga
5. Raichur

Kerala

1. Palakkad
2. Wynad

Madhya Pradesh

1. Balaghat
2. Barwani

3. Betul
4. Chhatarpur
5. Damoh
6. Dhar
7. Dindori
8. Guna
9. Jhabua
10. Katni
11. Khandwa
12. Mandla
13. Panna
14. Rajgarh
15. Rewa
16. Satna
17. Seoni
18. Shahdol
19. Sheopur
20. Shivpuri
21. Siddhi
22. Tikamgarh
23. Umaria
24. West Nimar

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar
2. Amravati
3. Aurangabad
4. Bhandra
5. Chandrapur
6. Dhule
7. Gadchiroli

8. Gondia
9. Hingoli
10. Nanded
11. Nandurbar
12. Yavatmal

Manipur

1. Chandel
2. Churchandrapur
3. Tamenlong

Meghalaya

1. Ri Bhoi
2. South Garo Hills
3. West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1. Lawngtlai
2. Siaha

Nagaland

1. Mon
2. Tuensang
3. Workha

Orissa

1. Bolangir
2. Boudh
3. Debagarh
4. Dhenkanal
5. Gajapati
6. Ganjam
7. Jharsuguda
8. Kalahandi
9. Keonjhar
10. Koraput

11. Malkangiri
12. Mayurbhanj
13. Nabrangpur
14. Nuapada
15. Phulbani
16. Rayagada
17. Sambalpur
18. Sonapur
19. Sundargarh

Punjab

1. Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1. Banewara
2. Barmer
3. Chhittaurgarh
4. Dungarpur
5. Jaisalmer
6. Jalor
7. Jhalawar
8. Karoli
9. Sawai Madhopur
10. Sirohi
11. Tonk
12. Udaipur

Sikkim

1. Sikkim North

Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore
2. Dindigul
3. Nagapattinam
4. Sivagangai
5. Tiruvannamalai
6. Villupuram

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ambedkar Nagar
2. Azamgarh
3. Bahraich
4. Balrampur
5. Banda
6. Barabanki
7. Basti
8. Budaun
9. Chandauli
10. Chitrakoot
11. Etah
12. Farrukhabad
13. Fatehpur
14. Gonda
15. Gorakhpur
16. Hamirpur
17. Hardoi
18. Jalaun
19. Jaunpur
20. Kaushambi
21. Kushinagar
22. Lakhimpur Kheri
23. Lalitpur
24. Maharajganj
25. Mahoba
26. Mirzapur
27. Pratapgarh
28. Raebareli

29. Sant Kabir Nagar
30. Shravasti
31. Siddharthanagar
32. Sitapur
33. Sonbhadra
34. Unnao

Uttaranchal

1. Chamoli
2. Champawat
3. Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1. Bankura
2. Birbhum
3. Dakshin Dinajpur
4. Jalpaiguri
5. Malda
6. Midnapur East
7. Midnapur West
8. Murshidabad
9. Purulia
10. South 24 Parganas
11. Uttar Dinajpur

Statement III

States that have constituted District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243 of the Constitution

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Karnataka
4. Kerala
5. Madhya Pradesh

6. Manipur
7. Rajasthan
8. Sikkim
9. Tamilnadu
10. West Bengal
11. Assam
12. Orissa

(Goa has set Up DPCs, but it is not covered under the BRGF).

Table B

States that have not set up DPCs and the reasons thereof

Sl.No.	State	Latest Position and remarks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh had issued an Ordinance in September 2005 for the constitution of DPCs pending the passage of the relevant bill in the Legislative Assembly. The ordinance has now been replaced by legislation. Under the legislation, the Chairperson of the District Panchayat is to be the Chairperson of the DPC. It has been reported that the elections to the DPCs will be completed by January 2007.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	It has been reported by the State that the composition and terms of reference of DPCs have been notified and that immediately after notification, they will be constituted.
3.	Bihar	Bihar has laid down a calendar of events for the constitution of DPCs. Rules have been formulated for the same and

1	2	3
		are under vetting by the legal department.
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat does not have a DPC but a nominated body, the District Planning Board, created through government order. It has been reported that draft legislation for the constitution of DPCs has been prepared and will be moved in the next session of the legislature.
5.	Haryana	The Government of Haryana has decided to constitute DPCs in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The necessary rules and notifications are under issue.
6.	Jharkhand	Since Panchayats have not been elected, no DPCs have been constituted.
7.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra has a district level body, with equal representation from nominated members and elected representatives. A legislation for DPCs was passed, but has not been implemented so far. Rules have been published for inviting objections and after considering them if any, the rules will be finalised and will be followed by elections.
8.	Punjab	Punjab has enacted legislation for the constitution of DPCs in October 05. The conduct of DPC elections is under the consideration of the Government.
9.	Tripura	In Tripura 70% of the area is under the 6th Schedule. There is a single tier system in ADC

1	2	3
		areas. DPCs therefore cannot be established through legal provisions in these districts. Tripura states that they have examined the issue from a legal standpoint and are in the process of creating DPCs through executive orders for the areas coming under Part IX of the Constitution.
10.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh has enacted legislation for DPCs (in 1999), but is yet to issue the notification for the constitution of these bodies. They have a nominated body, the DPDC at the District level, which cannot be construed to be a DPC.
11.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal, which inherited the UP Panchayati Raj Act, has also not notified or constituted the DPCs. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Cadre Review of Central Health Service

1199. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake Cadre review of Central Health Service;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Javed Chaudhary Committee in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India instructions provide for periodic review of organized services. As regards the time by which cadre review of Central Health Service is likely to be done, since it involves consultation with concerned participating units of Central Health Service and other departments like Department of Personnel and Training, Department Expenditure etc., no definite time frame can be prescribed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Representation of SC/ST/OBC Officers

1200. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IAS, IPS and IFS Officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories as on date, category-wise;

(b) whether they have not been given adequate representation in commensurate with their population; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) A Statement is enclosed. The vacancies in the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Police Service and the Indian Foreign Service are reserved for Other Backwards Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at the prescribed rate of 27%, 15% and 7.5% respectively at the time of direct recruitment in these services. The reservation is not applicable for promotee segment of the respective cadres, as it is available in the feeder services.

(b) and (c) Representation of SCs and STs in direct recruitment for Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) has nearly reached the prescribed percentage of reservation for the respective categories. The reservation for OBCs was started only from the Civil Services Examination, 1994.

Statement

Sl.No.	Indian Administrative Service (Information as on 27.11.2006)	Indian Police Service (Information as on 31.1.2006)	Indian Foreign Service (Information as on 27.11.2006)	
1.	Total number of Direct recruits	3429	2306	496
2.	Number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) along with percentage	473 (13.79%)	311 (13.48%)	59 (11.9%)
3.	Number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs) along with percentage	248 (7.23%)	162 (7.02%)	40 (8.1%)
4.	Number of persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) along with percentage	246 [⊗] (7.17%)	162 [⊗] (7.02%)	48 [⊗] (9.7%)

⊗ Reservation for OBC was implemented only from the Civil Services Examination, 2004 and, hence, percentage, when calculated at the base of total strength of DR, is low.

Human Resource Policy for Employees of BSNL

(c) the main objectives of the said policy; and

1201. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(d) the time by which the policy would be implemented?

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to formulate any human resource policy for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) after its incorporation on 01.10.2000 upon conversion of Department of Telecom Services and

Department of Telecom Operations into a Central PSU, initially adopted HR policies of the Central Government. Since about 3.5 lakh government employees were transferred to BSNL upon this conversion, to suit the corporate working the HR policy in BSNL has been continuously upgraded. Wage agreements have been drawn up for Non-Executive employees. Pay, Perks, Medical Benefit Scheme, Productivity Linked Incentive Schemes, Training and Development Programmes, Recruitment Rules, Group Insurance Scheme have been framed for BSNL employees.

(c) and (d) The objective of BSNL's HR policy is to utilize the full potential of its human resource. In order to meet fierce competition in the Telecom Service Sector, BSNL has been adopting a dynamic and flexible HR policy. HR policy and requisite changes necessary for telecom market are implemented in a timely and phased manner keeping the internal and external factors in mind.

[English]

Assessment of Tenth Five Year Plan Targets

1202. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any independent assessment of the Tenth Five Year Plan targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the growth rate projected and the achievements made in various sectors so far;

(d) the details of new priority areas selected after the mid-term appraisal alongwith the resource position in the current plan;

(e) the details of actual GDP growth so far against the targeted level of plan period; and

(f) the steps taken to achieve the targets fixed in the remaining period of the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has undertaken Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). Copies of the MTA document have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) The targeted growth rates for the Tenth Plan period (2002-07) and the achievements made during the first four years of the Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06), in the three broad sectors of the economy as well as in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are given below:

Sector-wise growth targets and achievements in the Tenth Plan

Sl.No.	Sectors	Tenth Five Year Plan	
		Target (2002-07)	Actual (2002-03 to 2005-06)
1.	Agriculture	4.0	1.8
2.	Industry	8.9	8.0
3.	Services	9.3	8.9
4.	Gross Domestic Product (at market prices)	8.1	7.3

(d) The Mid-Term Appraisal identified 59 priority areas of action in agriculture, irrigation, rural development, watershed development, horticulture, fertilizer pricing, food processing, energy, social sector, power, rural energy, coal, petroleum, transport, infrastructure, labour and employment, industry, governance etc. Some of the steps taken include Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, etc. The details are available in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), which is available in the Parliamentary library.

The resource realisation in terms of budgetary resources for the first four years of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06) has been 6.87% of GDP at market prices, in the first four years of the Tenth Five Year Plan as against the target of 6.92%, set for the Tenth plan Period.

(e) Based on estimates of National Accounts Statistics by Central Statistical Organisation (with a revised base of 1999-2000), the growth rate of GDP (at market prices) for the first four years of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06) is estimated to be 7.3% as against the target of 8.1% set for the Tenth Plan.

(f) The steps undertaken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed in the remaining years of the Tenth Plan period include raising public investment in agriculture, infrastructure like power, roads with greater focus on rural roads, health and education, encouraging foreign direct investment, improving governance and enhancing the efficiency of delivery system. The Government has also launched certain programmes viz. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, etc.

[Translation]

Improvement In Condition of Hospitals and PHCs

1203. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn up a scheme to improve the condition of Central Government owned hospitals and Primary health centres in the rural and urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated during the current financial year thereunder alongwith the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the functioning of Sub Divisional/Sub Distt. Hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres are to be improved through upgradation of these institutions to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). IPHS details the specifications of standards to which these institutions would have to be raised to so that the citizen is confident of getting public health services in the hospital that can be measured to be acceptable standards. Each institution would, as part of IPHS, be required to set up a Patient Welfare Committee/Hospital Management Committee, which will bring in community control into the management of public hospitals.

(c) Funds @ Rs. 20.00 lakh per CHC for upgradation of CHCs have been released to the States in 2005-06 and 2006-07. State/UT wise release of funds is given in the enclosed statement.

An amount of Rs. 588.00 lakhs has been released for constitution and registration of Rogi Kalyan Samitis (RKS) @ Rs. Five lakh per Distt. Hospital and Rs. one lakh for PHC as per registration details received from State/UTs.

In addition, Annual Maintenance Grant @ Rs. 50000 per PHC for improvement and maintenance of physical infrastructure and Rs. 25000/- per PHC as a united fund for local health needs have been approved for release during 2006-07.

Statement

Funds released for upgradation of CHCs to IPHS under NRHM

@ Rs. 20.00 lakhs per CHC

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1380.00	1900.00	3280.00
2.	Goa	100.00		100.00
3.	Gujarat	1500.00	3940.00	5440.00
4.	Haryana	1200.00	240.00	1440.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	720.00	600.00	1320.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	840.00	560.00	1400.00
7.	Karnataka	1620.00	3480.00	5080.00
8.	Kerala	840.00	1280.00	2120.00
9.	Maharashtra	2100.00	5540.00	7640.00
10.	Punjab	1020.00	1300.00	2320.00
11.	Tamil Nadu	1200.00	2100.00	3300.00
12.	West Bengal	1080.00	820.00	1900.00
	Total	13600.00	21740.00	35340.00
	EAG States			
1.	Bihar	3080.00		3080.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	1280.00	1040.00	2320.00
3.	Jharkhand	1760.00		1760.00
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3840.00	740.00	4580.00
5.	Rajasthan	2560.00	3960.00	6520.00
6.	Orissa	2400.00	2220.00	4620.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	5600.00	2120.00	7720.00
8.	Uttaranchal	1040.00		1040.00
	Total	21560.00	10080.00	31640.00
	UTs			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	80.00		80.00
2.	Chandigarh	20.00		20.00
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.00		20.00
4.	Daman and Diu	20.00		20.00
5.	Delhi	0.00		0.00
6.	Lakshadweep	60.00		60.00
7.	Pondicherry	80.00		80.00
	Total	280.00	0.00	280.00
	Total other than NE States	35440.00	31820.00	67260.00

1	2	3	4	5
NE States				
1.	Assam	1320.00	680.00	2000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	580.00	40.00	620.00
3.	Manipur	460.00		460.00
4.	Meghalaya	400.00	80.00	480.00
5.	Mizoram	340.00		340.00
6.	Nagaland	500.00		500.00
7.	Tripura	180.00	20.00	200.00
8.	Sikkim	160.00		160.00
Total NE States		3940.00	820.00	4760.00
Grand Total (All States and UTs)		39380.00	32640.00	72020.00

*[English]***Launching of New Scheme**

1204. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has introduced/propose to introduce the scheme, "Delivery of Cash at Doorstep";

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the time by which the scheme would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, no such scheme has been introduced by the Department of Posts on all India basis. However, four postal circles i.e. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh on their own initiative have provided facility of delivery of cash at the doorstep of account holder through postman in a limited manner on an experimental basis. The facility allows the account holder to authorize the postman to collect cash on his behalf and deliver the same to him at his doorstep. For this service, the account holder agrees to pay a token charge.

*[Translation]***Regulations to Employ Indians Abroad**

1205. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether strict restrictions and rules have been imposed on the employment of persons of Indian origin in some of the Gulf Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up this matter of alleged discrimination with the concerned countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Use of Iodized Salt

1206. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the use of iodized salt by all the consumers in the country has been made mandatory by the Government from May, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any schemes to provide relief to the common man in view of the rising prices of salt;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the quality of such salt is being checked by the Government; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under PFA Rules 1955, restrictions have been imposed on the sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption. However Common Salt may be sold for iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use.

(c) and (d) Some States/Union Territories have included sale of iodised salt through the Public Distribution System to provide that same at reasonable cost. The average consumption of iodised salt per person per day is about 10 grams.

(e) and (f) Manufacture of iodised salt is monitored by the Salt Commissioner. The standards of salt are prescribed under PFA rules, 1955. The PFA Act, 1954 is implemented by the State/UT Government who have the mandate to draw samples of various food products including iodized salt and take action under PFA Rules, 1955, if the samples are found not confirming to PFA Rules, 1955.

[English]

Toll Tax Over Bridges of NHs

1207. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over bridges on National Highways passing through Karnataka where toll tax is being levied, location-wise;

(b) the rate at which toll tax is charged, vehicle-wise;

(c) the total toll collected during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted for fixing the rate of toll tax;

(e) whether toll tax on over bridges is uniform in the entire country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no over-bridge on National Highways passing through Karnataka where toll tax is being collected separately.

(b) The rate of toll tax for services rendered in relation to use of bridges costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore on any section of National Highways is charged based on the initial cost of the bridge and its approaches as per table given below:

Initial Cost of the bridge and its approaches (Rs. in crores)	Toll Rates (Rs. per Vehicle)		
	Cars/Jeep. etc.	Light Commercial Vehicles/Mini Buses	Trucks/Buses and Multi Axle Vehicles
Below 50	5	10	15
50-75	10	10	25
75-100	10	15	30
100-125	15	20	40
125-150	15	20	40
150-200	15	25	50
Above 200	20	30	60

However, for the bridges constructed through private sector participation, the toll tax varies from case to case.

(c) As mentioned above, no toll tax is being collected on over-bridges on National Highways passing through Karnataka separately.

(d) to (f) As per present policy, no toll tax is being collected for the bridges each costing less than Rs. 5.00 crores. For bridges each costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore, the toll tax is fixed based on the initial cost of the bridge and its approaches as per National Highways (Rate of Fee) Rules 1997. However for the bridges constructed through private sector participation the toll tax for various categories of vehicles is decided based on the cost of construction, maintenance and operation, volume of traffic and concession period. For fixing the toll tax same criteria is followed throughout the country.

Cooperation in Field of Civil Nuclear Energy

1208. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Africa and France have expressed their willingness to cooperate with India in the field of civil nuclear energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain South African and French Companies have carried out feasibility studies to set up civilian nuclear plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India is exploring civil nuclear cooperation with all potential countries including South Africa and France. Discussions have been held at various levels including between companies to fully explore the potential for cooperation.

[Translation]

Appointment of High Commissioners/Ambassadors

1209. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise details of the High Commissioners/Ambassadors appointed during the last three years including the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes;

(b) the criteria fixed for selection of High Commissioners/Ambassadors; and

(c) the total number of IFS officers and the number of SC/ST/OBC officers among them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Appointment of 118 High Commissioners/Ambassadors in the following countries have been made by the Government during the last three years:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia.

Out of above, a total of 18 High Commissioners/Ambassadors belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), which includes 12 officers appointed to Algeria, Belarus, Finland, Oman, Panama, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Zimbabwe, Brunei Darussalam, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago belonging to SC category, and 6 High Commissioners/Ambassadors appointed to Botswana, Bulgaria, North Korea, Lebanon, Mozambique and Zambia belonging to ST category. Recruitment of officers on the basis of Other Backward Classes (OBC) category commenced from the year 1994 and consequently officers of OBC category have as yet not attained the requisite seniority for being appointed as High Commissioners/Ambassadors.

(b) Indian High Commissioners/Ambassadors are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. These

appointments are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, *inter alia*, their seniority, background, relevant experience and an overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

(c) As on date, the total number of IFS officers in the Ministry is 599, out of which number of officers belonging to SC, ST and OBC are 82, 45 and 48 respectively.

[*English*]

Opening Coal Mines to Private Sectors

1210. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to open coal mining to private sector without restriction of captive use;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) A Bill to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 with the following objectives:

- (i) To allow Indian companies to mine coal and lignite in the country without the existing restrictions of captive consumption.
- (ii) To allow Indian companies to undertake exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

The Bill is pending for consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Health Care Facilities Under Mother Care Scheme

1211. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the areas which lack health care facilities in various States under the mother care scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the State identified;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to give cash assistance to women to enable them to avail private treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this facility has been extended to all income groups; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government has been continuously reviewing availability of health care facilities in all the States and UTs for maternal care under its Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a safe motherhood intervention, has been introduced all over the country in 2005 under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. Cash assistance is available to the pregnant women also for availing services from accredited private institutions. A Statement providing details of Janani Suraksha Yojana is enclosed.

Statement

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. The Yojana, launched on 12th April 2005 is being implemented in all States and UTs. JSY is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme.

2. The Yojana has identified ASHA, the accredited social health activist as an effective link between the Government and the poor pregnant women in 10 low performing States, namely the 8 EAG States and Assam and Jammu and Kashmir and the remaining NE States. Her main role is to facilitate pregnant women to avail services of maternal care and arrange referral transport.

3. The scheme focuses on the poor pregnant women with special dispensation for States having low institutional delivery rates and namely the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Orissa, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. While these States have been classified as Low Performing States (LPS), the remaining states have been named as High Performing States (HPS).

4. Eligibility for Cash Assistance:

In LPS States All women, including those from SC and ST families, delivering in Government health centres like Sub-centre, PHC/CHS/FRU/general wards of Districts and state Hospitals or accredited private institutions.

In HPS States BPL pregnant women, aged 19 years and above and the SC and ST pregnant women.

5. Scale of Cash Assistance (in Rs.) for Institutional Delivery:

Category	Rural Area		Urban Area	
	Mother's Package	ASHA's Package	Mother's Package	ASHA's Package
In LPS	1400	600	1000	200
In HPS	700		600	

6. Limitations of Cash Assistance for Institutional Delivery:

In LPS States All births, delivered in a health centre — Government or Accredited Private health institutions.

In HPS States Upto 2 live births.

7. ASHA Package is available in all LPS, NE States and in the tribal districts of all States and UTs. In rural areas it includes the following components:

- Cash assistance for Referral transport for pregnant women to go to the nearest health centre for delivery.
- Balance amount to be paid to ASHA in lieu of her services rendered by her.

8. The Yojana subsidizes the cost of Caesarean Section or for the management of Obstetric complications, upto to Rs. 1500/- per delivery to the Government institution, where Government specialists are not in position.

9. In LPS and HPS States, all such BPL pregnant women, aged 19 years and above, preferring to deliver at home are entitled to cash assistance of Rs. 500/- per delivery, upto two live births.

Assistance for Pilgrimage Abroad

1212. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims who undertook Haj and Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the criteria laid down for selection of religious places as pilgrim centre abroad; and

(c) the extent of assistance provided to the pilgrims during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Year-wise figures of number of pilgrims who undertook Haj pilgrimage through the Haj Committee of India, and through Private Tour Operators and the number of pilgrims who performed Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage during the last three years is as under:

Year	Pilgrims through Haj Committee of India	Number of Pilgrims who performed Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage
2004	71,707	537
2005	80,772	529
2006	99,660	592

In addition the pilgrims have also performed Haj pilgrimage through Private Tour Operators whose quota was 45,000 and 47,000 during the last two years respectively.

(b) There are no criteria prescribed by Government for selection of religious places for Pilgrimage abroad.

(c) The Government provides facilities and assistance to the Haj pilgrims which include making arrangements for transportation and accommodation in Saudi Arabia, reception at embarkation points, setting up of dispensaries and medical units in Saudi Arabia, supply of medicines, temporary deputation of medical, para-medical and administrative staff. The Consulate General of India in Jeddah also renders assistance in making various logistical arrangements for the pilgrims performing Haj.

Government of India provides assistance to the pilgrims going for Kailash and Mansarovar also. A sum of Rs. 3250/- for each pilgrim is paid to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, the agency on the Indian side authorized for making logistical arrangements for the pilgrims. This is to partially offset the expenditure incurred by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam. In addition, the facilities include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh pass on the Indian side and communication links with China and provision of satellite phone to the liaison officer for each batch of pilgrims through-out the pilgrimage. A liaison officer is attached by the Government of India with each batch of pilgrims who is responsible for their general welfare.

[English]

Tatkal Scheme

1213. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of applications being received daily through various modes in the District Passport Cells and Passport Application Collection Centres in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the average number of days taken for the issue of passports;

(c) the special facilities, if any, provided for those who apply for passports under the Tatkal Scheme; and

(d) the measures undertaken for speedy issuance of passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The average number of applications being received daily through the District Passport Cells and Passport Application Collection Centres in Tamil Nadu is approximately 375.

(b) The average number of days taken for the issue of passports varies from 80 to 90 days.

(c) Under the Tatkal Scheme, passports for first time applicants are despatched on the 5th working day and on the 3rd working day for re-issue cases. There is also a separate counter for urgently processing passport applications under this scheme.

(d) Several measures have been taken for speedy issuance of Passports. These include: (i) grant across the counter to avoid any objections in the future (ii) on-line registration for interested applicants (iii) pendency clearance drive from time to time to clear the pending applications and (iv) requesting State authorities for early and timely despatch of police verification reports, which are required for issuance of passports.

Installation of INMARSAT

1214. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for installation of INMARSAT in the country; and

(b) the extent to which it would be beneficial to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has deployed INMARSAT terminals for providing Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility for the benefit of the public in the villages located in remote and inaccessible places which cannot be covered through existing terrestrial technologies. These terminals are also deployed basic telephone connectivity in case of exigencies like flood, tsunami, earthquake, etc. As such satellite based phones are specifically beneficial during disaster conditions.

[Translation]

Officers Sent Abroad for Training

1215. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of various rank are sent abroad training on the Union Government expenditure;

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

(c) whether facilities to provide such training are not available in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The nominations of Government officers for various training programmes abroad are made by the Department of Personnel and Training as well as by the different Ministries/Departments concerned as per the Ministries' own needs/requirements. These training programmes also include nominations made to the training programmes sponsored by other countries. Officers are sent for training abroad entirely on need based considerations aimed at drawing lessons from cross-country experiences. Participation in training courses abroad helps officers in achieving these objectives.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Container Terminal at Vallarpadam

1216. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal for construction of Container Terminal at Vallarpadam in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the said construction is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up of the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam was approved by the Government of India on 13th January, 2005. As per the Licence Agreement signed by the Cochin Port Trust with the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) operator M/s. India Gateway Private Terminal Limited (IGPTL), the BOT operator is obligated to commence construction of Phase I of the ICTT project not later than (i) the date of

expiry of Twelve (12) Months from the date of declaration of the ICTT Project Site as a part of Special Economic Zone (SEZ); or (ii) the date of expiry of Six (6) Months from the date of securing all necessary environmental clearance for construction works for Phase I of ICTT; or (iii) the date of commencement of construction of Rail Connectivity by the appropriate Authority; or (iv) the date of commencement of construction of National Highway Connectivity by the appropriate Authority; or (v) the date of expiry of Two (2) Years from the Date of Commercial Operation of Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT); whichever is the latest.

Treaties Signed with Nepal

1217. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have signed an extradition treaty and a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) aimed at combating terrorism and cross-border criminal activities as reported in the *Indian Express* dated October 02, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both countries had signed such agreements earlier also;

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

(e) the extent to which both countries are likely to be benefited as a result of such treaties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) An extradition treaty between India and Nepal was signed in 1953. The treaty is used to extradite to each other those persons, who, being accused, or convicted of a crime committed in the territory of one Government are found within the territory of the other Government.

Psychiatric Patients

1218. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mental hospitals and details of faculties in psychiatry department in medical colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of people who sought psychiatric care treatment during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise;

(c) the per-capita practicing psychiatrists in the country as at present alongwith patient-psychiatrist ratio during the said period;

(d) whether there is exodus of psychiatrists from colleges/hospitals of the country on a large scale;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There are 37 Government mental hospitals in the country. In addition, there are 262 Medical Colleges under the Government. Most of these colleges have Department of Psychiatry. The data relating to the number of people seeking psychiatric care; number of patients admitted for treatment; and the number of faculty in psychiatry departments in medical colleges are not centrally maintained. The per-capita practicing psychiatrists works out to 1 Psychiatrist per 4,50,000 population, approximately, as assessed during the mental health resources survey carried out in May, 2002.

(d) to (f) Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of psychiatrists seeking employment in advanced countries like U.K., U.S.A & Australia owing to demand of such Specialists in these

countries as well as improvement in one's prospects, professional and academic and financial considerations which happen world-wide. The Government is upgrading psychiatric wards of Government Medical Colleges so as to enable them to start Post-Graduate Courses.

Black Listing of Contractors

1219. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has blacklisted certain domestic and foreign contractors;

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

(c) the extent to which such a move will affect the progress of NHAI projects in a stipulated time frame; and

(d) the time by which new contractors are likely to be appointed?

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

(b) The details are enclosed in the statement.

(c) and (d) Terminated contracts (awarded to blacklisted firms) have been re-awarded and work is in progress. Though this may cause delay in completion of individual contracts due to termination of contracts and blacklisting of contractors, this deters the contractors against adoption of wrong means and negligence and will have a positive impact on completion of overall project.

Statement

List of Black Listed Firms

S.No.	Name of black listed firms	Reasons for black listing
1	2	3
1.	M/s. You One Engineering and Construction Company Limited.	
2.	M/s. Maharia Re-surfacing and Construction Private Limited.	

1	2	3
3.	M/s. You One-Maharia (JV) along with following associated firms:-	
	(i) M/s. You One Engineering and Construction Company Limited (M/s. Ultra Construction and Engineering Company Limited-new name).	Submission of forged bank guarantee
	(ii) M/s. Maharia Re-surfacing and Construction Private Limited.	
4.	M/s. Maharia-Raj (JV) Constituent Partners	
	(i) M/s. Maharia Re-surfacing and Construction Private Limited	
	(ii) M/s. Raj and Associates Construction Division.	
5.	M/s. Garg Construction Company.	Submission of forged document for qualification.
6.	M/s. Prakash-Mahavir.	Due to collapse of a span of bridge during construction.
7.	M/s. Rana Projects International Limited.	Submission of forged bank guarantee.

Availability of Port Services to Chinese Companies

1220. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether services of Indian ports are not available to Chinese companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether China has taken up the matter with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Services of Indian ports are available to all companies including Chinese companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Deep-Sea Port

1221. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for the construction of a deep-sea port in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the location identified for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for expediting this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the State Government of West Bengal for setting up of a new deep-sea port on the coastline of West Bengal. The Government has initiated preparatory action. Expressions of interest have been received from Consultants for development of the project including identification of suitable location for the proposed port which are under evaluation.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Edible Oils

1222. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the edible oils are being adulterated on a large scale;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check the adulteration in edible oils; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No such specific report has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. However, as per the information provided by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories responsible for the implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 in their respective States/U.Ts, the percentage of adulteration in edible oils under the category of "Edible Oils, Fats and Vanaspati", for the years 2001 to 2003 are as based on samples lifted and tested are as under:-

2001	11.24%
2002	10.37%
2003	10.08%

The standards of edible oils have been prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955. The enforcement staff of the States/U.Ts draw random samples of various food articles

including edible oils regularly. Action is taken under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 against the offenders where samples of food articles are not found to be conforming to the prescribed standards.

The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the quality of all food items including edible oils being sold in the markets and draw random food samples from all sources viz Manufacturers/Wholesalers and Retailers.

Bypasses along National Highways

1223. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct bypasses along the National Highways which pass through big cities;

(b) if so, the National Highways where such construction work has been sanctioned, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct bypass along the National Highway No. 75 which passes through Satna in Madhya Pradesh and National Highway No. 7 passing through Mehar in Satna district;

(d) whether the Union Government has received any such proposal from the State Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The construction of the bypass on National Highways are taken up depending upon the traffic, congestion in the city, inter-se priority and the availability of the funds.

(b) The State-wise details of bypasses on National Highways sanctioned for construction are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) There is not such proposal.

(d) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	NH No.	Name of City/Town
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Adilabad, Echoda, Nirmal, Balconda, Perkit, Kemereddy, Biknoor, Ramayapet, Chenguta, Toopran, Shadnagar, Kothakota, Pebbair, Ulindakonda, Ukothapalli, Enugumari, Pyapilli, Gooty, Garladinne, Vadiyampeta, Maruru, Mamilapalli, NS Gate, CK Palli, Guttur, Penukonda, Sommandepalli
2.	Assam	36 and 37	Nagaon
		44	Karimganj
		52	North Lakhimpur
		53	Silchar
3.	Bihar	57	Mazaffarpur, Darbhanga, Jhanjharpur, Forbesganj
		2	Dhidkhili, Sasaram, Barachatti
4.	Gujarat	8B	Ranavav, Upleta, Rajkot
5.	Himachal Pradesh	21	Kullu
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A	Jammu, Srinagar, Udampur, Woyil
		1D	Kargil Town
7.	Jharkhand	2	Barahi, Isari Dumri
8.	Karnataka	7	Chicikballapur, Devanhalli, Yelahanka
		4	Tumkur, Sira, Chitradurga, Hiriyur, Baramsagar, Davanagere-Harihar, Ranebennur, Haveri, Belgaum
9.	Kerala	17	Thalassery-Mahe, Kollandy, Kozhikode
		47	Allapuzha, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara
		49	Tripunithura
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	Rewa, Katni City
		76	Shivpuri
		3	Guna, Mhow, Gujri, Dhamnod
		3 and 75	Gwalior
		26	Sagar

1	2	3	4
11.	Maharashtra	6	Akola
		7	Nagpur, Kamptee Kanhan
		4	Westerly, Katraj Ghat, Kini
12.	Punjab	64	Patiala
13.	Rajasthan	76	Pindwara, Jashwanthgarh, Udaipur, Kota, Anta, Baran
		76 and 79	Chittorgarh
		11	Mahua, Dausa
14.	Tamil Nadu	7	Kaveripatanam, Periyampatti, Matlampatti, Dharampuri-Adhyanamkotti-Nallampalli, Omallur, Mallur, Puduchatram, Chellappanpatti, Velur, Vedasandur, Kodai Road, Vadipatti, Madurai, Thrumangalam, China Odaipatti, Kayathar, Tirunelvali, Valliyoor, Kaval Kinaru, Pazhavur, Karungulam, Anjugramam, Kanniyakumari, Kodalampatti, Sankari, Pallakkappalayam, Chittodu, Nasayanur, Perundurai, Vijayapur, Pallagoundapalayam, Chengapalli
		45	Tindivanam, Villupuram, Ulunderpet, Samayapuram
		45-B	Kottampatti, Melur, Othakadai, Trichrapalli, Viralimalai, Thuvarankurichi
		46	Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Sri Perumbur, Chennai
15.	Tripura	44	Agartala
16.	Uttar Pradesh	24, 28, 56A and	Lucknow
		56B	
		25	Jhansi, Chirgaon, Moth, Orai
		58	Meerut, Khautli
		11	Bharatpur
		28	Gorakhpur, Ramsaneha Ghat, Barabanki, Ayodhya
		24	Moradabad
		2	Agra, Raja ka Taal, Sirsaganj, Ukhrend, Etawah, Ekdil, Bakewar, Ujhayani-Mahewa-Anantram, Babupur-Ajeetmal, Bjiikepur-Murudganj, Bilinda, Thariaon, Allahabad, Sayyed Raja, Naubatpur-Khajura

1	2	3	4
17.	Uttaranchal	58	Rudraprayag
18.	West Bengal	31	Islampur
		34	Dalkhola

Pace of Work on NH-24

1224. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of the work relating to conversion of National Highways No. 24 into four lane is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time frame for completion of this work upto Moradabad and Bareilly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Four laning of Delhi — Hapur section of NH 24 including Hapur bypass has already been completed.

There is some delay in completion of Hapur-Moradabad section of NH 24 which is part of NHDP II due to following reasons:-

- (i) Delay in permission of tree cutting by Forest Department.
- (ii) Utility shifting.
- (iii) Removal of encroachments.
- (iv) Slow mobilization by the contractor.

The stretch is now scheduled for completion by December 2007.

Moradabad-Bareilly-Sitapur Section of NH 24 has been included under NHDP Phase-III B for which the approval is only for preparation of Detailed Project Report and not for implementation of four laning work.

The work of four laning for the remaining stretch of NH 24 i.e. Sitapur-Lucknow section has been awarded under NHDP Phase-III A and is scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

Water Transport Service In Ganga River

1225. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to start water transport service in Ganga river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether terminals have been constructed for the said service;

(d) if so, the names of the locations where such terminals have been constructed; and

(e) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The River Ganga between Haldia and Allahabad has been declared as a National Waterway by enactment of an Act of the Parliament in the year 1982 which came into force in October, 1986. Basic infrastructural facilities, such as, navigational channel, terminals, navigational aids, etc. are being provided and maintained by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. Transportation of cargo by water transport mode is already taking place on the River Ganga, Floating terminals have been provided at Haldia, Kolkata, Bhagalpur, Patna, Varanasi and Allahabad and fixed terminals at Kolkata, Pakur and Farakka. A fixed terminal at Gaighat, Patna is also under construction and is nearing completion.

*[English]***Widening of Road in Orissa**

1226. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from Orissa and widening and improvement of Rourkela-Sambalpur Road;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned for the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Sir. Rourkela-Sambalpur road is a State road and its development is under the purview of State Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Petrol Pumps on National Highways**

1227. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the oil companies to obtain NOC from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for operating their petrol pumps on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of petrol pump of different oil companies operating on National Highways without obtaining NOC from the NHAI, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the reasons for allowing these to operate their petrol pump without NOC;

(d) whether such petrol pump will be closed down; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry grants permission for construction of access roads connecting petrol pumps with National Highways and not the permission for operation of petrol pumps. In these cases license deeds are signed by the Ministry with Oil Companies.

(b) to (e) This Ministry has not granted permission or given NOC for construction of access roads connecting petrol pumps with National Highways unless license deeds are signed. A tentative list of 2525 cases identified so far, where petrol pumps abutting National Highways are operating without obtaining this Ministry's permissions for construction of access roads, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for de-energizing them.

*[English]***Bad Condition of NHs**

1228. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the bad condition of certain National Highways especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has provided any amount to the Government of Kerala for the maintenance of NH-47, NH-213 and NH-17; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Some of the National Highway sections in the country are affected by damages like cracking, potholes, erosion of berms, ravelling etc. due to heavy traffic, overloading, climate etc. In Kerala NH-17, 47, 49, 208, 212, 213 and 220 have been affected.

(c) and (d) Funds for maintenance of National Highways is allocated State-wise and not National Highway wise. Rs. 33.60 crore has been allocated during the year 2006-07 for the maintenance of the National Highways in the State of Kerala.

Status of Bypass

1229. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of work on the construction of bypass along the National Highways in Thiruvananthapuram;
- (b) the reasons for delay in completing the work; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The total length of Thiruvananthapuram bypass on NH 47 is 44.253 km, out of which, a length of 22.633 km from Kazhakuttam to Kovalam has already been completed and opened to traffic. The balance length of 21,620 km now forms part of NHDP IIIA under which entire bypass will be four laned. Presently, the preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress. NHDP IIIA is expected to be completed by 2009.

[Translation]

Review of Reproductive and Child Health Programme

1230. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the Reproductive and Child Health Programme in the States;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the funds provided by the Union Government are being spent on the health services by all the States;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the amount provided for health services to the said States is being curtailed; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Yes Sir, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme is being regularly reviewed by the Government. The reviews show that most States and UTs have strengthened programme management structures, prepared decentralized State level Programme Implementation Plans and begun implementation of agreed Maternal Health, Child Health and Family Welfare technical interventions for reduction of Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio, and Total Fertility Rate. The States have also started reporting expenditure on approved programme activities. There is no proposal to curtail the financial envelopes available to the States under the programme and funds as per entitlement will continue to be released on submission of utilization certificates in respect of past releases.

[English]

Status of Works on NHs in Bihar

1231. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of National Highways covered under the Golden Quadrilateral project in Bihar;
- (b) the progress of construction work as compared to other States;
- (c) whether the 89 km stretch of NHAI Bihar project is delayed due to non-acceptance of tenders floated for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has conducted any inquiry in the matter;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the road projects in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar has 206 kms length of National Highway 'No. 2, out of which work in 182 kms has been completed. The balance length is scheduled for completion by December 2006.

(b) Percentage completion of Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar is nearly 88% as against nearly 93% for the entire country.

(c) and (d) In the question probably 890 km of National Highway Development Project Phase III in Bihar is being referred to. Bids on BOT (Toll) basis were invited for Patna-Bakhtiarpur section of NH-30 and Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH-19 and NH-77 having a total length of 113 kms but no response was received. These two stretches are now included for implementation under NHDP Phase IIIA. At present, the remaining length of 777 Km is approved only for preparation of DPR under NHDP Phase IIIB.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) For the completion of balance length of Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridor under NHDP Phase I and II, the steps taken are:

Regular monitoring of projects at various levels, appointment of senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with the implementation of projects, for construction of ROB an officer of railways has been posted in NHAI, action taken against non-performing contractors and payment of interest bearing discretionary advance to contractors.

To expedite NHDP Phase-III in Bihar, following action has been taken:

For Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH-19 and NH-77, NHAI proposes to invite bids again on BOT basis. For Patna-Bakhtiarpur section of NH-30, updation of DPR has been taken up. For the remaining length of NHs which is presently under NHDP Phase IIIB, it is proposed to seek approval of the Government for implementation of the project.

Health Facilities to Urban Poor

1232. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people living in urban areas of the country are still without basic infrastructure and public health services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Urban Health Resource Centre has urged the Government to include urban poor in the health mission;

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

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to provide health facilities to the urban poor in the country?

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

(b) As per the Report of the Task Force to Advise the National Rural Health Mission on "Strategies for Urban Health Care", 3220 number of primary level health (Urban Health Centres) are required to cover the target population of 220.87 millions approximately in the towns having a population of more than one lakh.

At the District level, 883 numbers of First Level Health Facilities are required to be set up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise, sir.

(e) Government of India identified Urban Health a thrust areas in the Tenth Five Year Plan Government, National Population Policy 2000, National Health Policy 2002 and phase-II of RCH Programme (2005). Under Phase-II of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare developed Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for vulnerable groups which also covers-Urban Slum Population. Most of the States have, in their State PIPs, proposed Urban Slum Projects in their States.

A high level Task Force constituted to advise the National Rural Health Mission on "Strategies for Urban Health Care" has submitted its report to the Government. A copy of the report has been circulated to all the States/UTs and Urban Local Bodies to seek their views/comments/suggestion to enable more effective implementation of Urban Health Programmes.

Bypasses Around Jaipur City

1233. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the bypasses being constructed around Jaipur city;

(b) the amount of assistance sanctioned by the Union Government for each such project; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) At present no bypass is being constructed around Jaipur city. There is already a Jaipur by-pass on Western side of National Highway 8 connecting Delhi-Jaipur-Bikaner National Highway 8 to Jaipur-Bikaner (National Highway 11) to Jaipur-Ajmer (National Highway 8).

(c) It is proposed to construct ring roads around some of the cities under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase VII. However, NHDP Phase VII is still at proposal stage and projects to be included under it have not been finalized.

Public Health Law

1234. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government is contemplating to bring out a public health law;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including its present status;

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue to the general public; and

(d) the date by which the same is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is engaged in the preparation of the draft "Public Health Emergencies Bill" to replace the existing Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 as this Act is very old and there have been considerable advances in the epidemiological concepts towards prevention and control of epidemic diseases. Moreover, newer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, Avian Influenza etc. have emerged as major/potential challenges to tackle the public health emergency situations in the country arising as result of disasters and bio-terrorism incidents besides dangerous epidemic diseases by instituting appropriate public health measures.

The proposed bill will be sent to the State Governments and Union Territories for comments shortly.

Spread of Diseases

1235. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether diseases like typhoid, rat fever and hand-foot-and-mouth are on the rise in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Consumption of contaminated water and food, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of diseases like typhoid, rat fever and hand-foot-and-mouth (HFMD). HFMD is caused due to virus, which transmits through feco-oral route. Data regarding rat fever and HFMD is not centrally maintained, however number of patients affected by typhoid during last five years as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence is as follows:

Year	Cases	Deaths
2001	4,90,195	606
2002	4,88,033	542
2003	5,96,684	839
2004	6,58,301	805
2005	6,95,114	419

Health is primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases like typhoid etc. through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, awareness programmes, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including water borne diseases.

The Government of India has also launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November 2004 to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including water-borne diseases like Typhoid, etc. so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to various diseases could be reduced.

[Translation]

Bypass along NH No. 28

1236. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a bypass along National Highway No. 28 in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of the above bypass is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A bypass on NH-28 in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh has been proposed to take off at km. 251.70 of NH-28 and again it meets at km. 279.80. An agreement for construction of the bypass on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT-Annuity) basis has already been signed with the concessionaire.

(c) The work is targeted to be started by April, 2007.

Arrangements for Loading and Unloading of Goods in Ports

1237. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether there is shortage of proper arrangements for loading and unloading of goods in the ports which results in additional burden of freight on import and export of goods;

(b) if so, the extent of its additional burden on goods like crude oil;

(c) whether the Government proposes to improve such facilities in the ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which proposed facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Ports are generally equipped to deal with loading and unloading of goods keeping in view the cargo profile a port is handling. However, improvement of the infrastructure of major ports in terms of loading and unloading of goods and other facilities in the country is an ongoing process. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), a total number of 276 projects in the major ports involving development of berths, deepening of channels, equipment upgradation and modernization, rail and road connectivity and other associated projects are planned to be implemented by 2011-12.

[English]

Restructuring of NHAI

1238. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to restructure the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); and

(b) 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) The proposal of restructuring of NHA as finalized by Inter-Ministerial Committee is under consideration of Government.

Implementation of NHDP Phase III

1239. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to implement the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-III;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount

likely to be incurred under the programme, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has envisaged up-gradation of 4,000 km of National Highways on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under NHDP Phase-III A, at a cost of Rs. 22,000 Crores. These 4,000 kms shall be awarded out of 6,139.25 km of National Highways (NH) stretches identified under NHDP Phase-III A. The list of 6,139.25 km is placed in the enclosed statement.

(c) NHDP Phase-III A is envisaged to be completed by December, 2009.

Statement

Approved stretches under NHDP Phase-III A

Sl.No.	State	NH	Stretch Under NHDP Phase-III A	Length (km)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Punjab	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49
2.	Punjab	1	Amritsar-Wagha border	35
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Guna-Bypass	12.25
4.	Maharashtra	3	Dhule-Pimpalgaon	118
5.	Maharashtra	3	Vadape-Gonde	100
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Indore-Khalaghat	83
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Khalaghat-MP/Maharashtra Border	85
8.	Maharashtra	3	Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde	60
9.	Maharashtra	3	MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule	97
10.	Karnataka	4	Mulbagal-Karnataka/AP border	11
11.	Karnataka	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore	30
12.	Karnataka	4	Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudabagal	75
13.	Karnataka	4A	Balgaum-Goa-KNT Border	84

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Gujarat	6	Surat-Hazira port	29
15.	Chhattisgarh	6	Raipur-Aurang	45
16.	Maharashtra	6	Nagpur-Wainganga Br.	60
17.	Maharashtra	6	Wainganga Br-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border	76
18.	Chhattisgarh	6	Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg	90
19.	Maharashtra	6	Nagpur-Kondhali	40
20.	Maharashtra	6	Kondhali-Talegaon	50
21.	Karnataka	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25
22.	Andhra Pradesh	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada (km 40 to 160)	120
23.	Andhra Pradesh	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada and Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam	121
24.	Haryana	10	Bahadurgarh-Rohtak	60
25.	Haryana	10	Rohtak-Hissar	80
26.	Delhi	10	Delhi-Hissar (Delhi portion)	20
27.	Rajasthan	11	Reengus-Sikar	41
28.	Uttar Pradesh	11	Agra-Bharatpur	18
29.	Rajasthan	11	Agra-Bharatpur	45
30.	Rajasthan	11	Bharatpur-Mahua	57
31.	Rajasthan	11	Mahua-Jaipur	108
32.	Rajasthan	11	Jaipur-Reengus	54
33.	Rajasthan	12	Deoli-Kota-Jhalawar	178
34.	Rajasthan	12	Jaipur-Tonk-Deoli	150
35.	Madhya Pradesh	12	Bhopal-Bareli	297
36.	Madhya Pradesh	12	Bareli-Rajmarg Crossing	
37.	Madhya Pradesh	12	Rajmarg Crossing-Jabalpur	
38.	Karnataka	13	Bijapur-Hospet	194
39.	Punjab	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101
40.	Karnataka	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71
41.	Karnataka	17	Mangalore-KNT/Kerala Border	18

1	2	3	4	5
42.	Bihar	19 and 77	Patna-Muzaffarpur	60
43.	Punjab	21	Chandigarh-Kurali	30
44.	Punjab	21	Kurali-Kiratpur	43
45.	Haryana/Punjab	22 and 21	Ambala-Zirakpur	35
46.	Punjab/Haryana/HP	22	Zirakpur-Parwanoo	33
47.	Punjab/Haryana/HP	22	Pawanoo-Shimla	100
48.	Uttar Pradesh	24	Lucknow-Sitapur	76
49.	Bihar	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53
50.	Jharkhand	33	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	75
51.	West Bengal	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60
52.	Tamilnadu	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80
53.	Kerala	47	Trivendrum-Kerala/Tamilnadu border	43
54.	Tamilnadu	47	Kerala/Tamilnadu border-Kanayakumari	70
55.	Kerala	47	Charthalai-Palakkad-Thiruvananthapuram	187
56.	Karnataka	48	Nellimangala-Hassan	154
57.	Maharashtra	50	Pune-Khed	30
58.	UP	58	Meerut-Muzaffarnagar	79
59.	Delhi/UP	58	Delhi-Meerut	46
60.	Pondicherry/Tamilnadu	66	Pondicherry-Tindivanam	40
61.	Tamilnadu	66	Krishnagiri-Tindivanam	170
62.	Tamilnadu	67	Thanjavur-Trichy	56
63.	Tamilnadu	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjavur	74
64.	Tamilnadu	67	Trichy-Karur (including Trichy bypass)	88
65.	Tamilnadu	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134
66.	Haryana	71	Rohtak-Bawal	97
67.	Uttaranchal	72	Haridwar-Dehradun	69
68.	Orissa	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39
69.	Orissa	200	Duburi-Talchar	98
70.	Orissa	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59

1	2	3	4	5
71.	AP/Tamilnadu	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138
72.	Tamilnadu	210	Trichy-Karalkudu	100
73.	Tamilnadu	210	Karalkudi-Ramanathapuram	100
74.	Orissa	215	Panikolli-Keunjhar-Rimoli	106
75.	Orissa	215	Rimoli-Roxy-Rajamunda	163
76.	Tamilnadu	45B	Madurai-Tuticorin	144
77.	UP/Uttaranchal	58 and 72	Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar	77
78.	Haryana	71A	Panipat-Rohtak	73
79.	Gujarat	8A	Kandla-Mundra port	73
Grand Total				6139.25

Widening and Renovation of NHs

1240. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways undertaken by the Union Government for widening and renovation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the National Highways Authority of India has slowed down the conversion works of two-lane into four-lane on Sira-Hariyur-Chitradurga-Davangere-Harihar-Haveri project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise names of National Highways which have been undertaken for widening and renovation including strengthening, renewal etc. during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) There has been delay in 4-laning of Sira-Hariyur-Chitradurga-Davangere-Harihar-Haveri section due to problem associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities and mainly due to poor performance of contractors. This section is likely to be completed by June, 2007 except Chitradurga bypass, where original contract has been terminated due to poor performance of the contractor. Work in Chitradurga bypass is likely to be completed by June, 2008.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Name of National Highway numbers undertaken for widening and renovation during the last three years
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214, 214A and 221,
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52A and 153
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 54, 61, 62 and 152

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	2, 19, 28, 28A, 30, 30A, 31, 57, 57A, 77, 80, 83, 84, 85, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106 and 107
5.	Chandigarh	21
6.	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 200, 216, 217 and 221
7.	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 24
8.	Goa	4A, 17, 17A and 17B
9.	Gujarat	6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8D, 14, 15, 59 and NE1
10.	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 21, 21A, 22, 65, 71, 71A, 72, 73
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 71, 72 and 88
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A, 1B, 1C and 1D
13.	Jharkhand	2, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80 and 99
14.	Karnataka	4, 4A 4MKB, 7, 9, 13, 17, 48, 63, 67, 206, 207, 209, 212 and 218
15.	Kerala	17, 47, 49 and 212
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3, 7, 12, 12A, 12Ext, 25, 26, 27, 59, 59A, 69, 75, 75Ext, 76, 78, 86, 86 Ext and 92
17.	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 69, 204, 211 and 222
18.	Manipur	39 and 150
19.	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51 and 62
20.	Mizoram	44A, 54, 150 and 154
21.	Nagaland	61 and 150
22.	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 43, 60, 200, 201, 203, 215 and 224
23.	Pondicherry	17 and 45A
24.	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, 72, 96
25.	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 11A, 11B, 12, 14, 15, 65, 76, 79, 79A, 89, 90, 112 and 113
26.	Sikkim	31A
27.	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45Ext, 46, 47, 49, 66, 67, 67Ext, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210 and 220
28.	Tripura	44

1	2	3
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2, 3, 7, 11, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 28B, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72, 73, 74, 75, 75E, 76, 86, 91, 91A, 93, 96 and 97
30.	Uttaranchal	58, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108, 109, 125
31.	West Bengal	2, 6, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 60A, 60Ext, 81 and 117

*[Translation]**[English]***National Workshop on Panchayati Raj System****Fund for Improvement of NHs**

1241. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

1242. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national workshop was organised to implement the Panchayati Raj system;

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Rajasthan for providing fund for improvement of National Highways passing through that State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the suggestions made therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to implement the Panchayati Raj system effectively in the light of the suggestions made in the national workshop;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

(b) Government of Rajasthan had sent a request in June 2004 for improvement of 4422 km length of National Highways (NHs) with the State Government in 4-years with funds requirement as follows:-

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The workshop of writers and thinkers on local governance and Panchayati Raj was held in New Delhi on 23rd June to 25th June, 2006. The workshop covered a number of issues concerning Panchayati Raj such as devolution, governance, transparency, RTI, training and capacity building, gender issue, civil society and parallel institutions, state related issues, etc. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in the process of its day-to-day functioning its addressing all the issues. A publication, "State of the Panchayat-2006: A Mid-Term Review and Appraisal" has been brought out by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 23rd November 2006.

Original works of widening/ strengthening	: Rs 960.00 crore
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Periodical Renewal	: Rs 275.00 crore
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Maintenance	: Rs 160.00 crore
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Total	: Rs 1395.00 crore
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(c) Out of 4422 km length of NHs 937 km length has been identified for up-gradation on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III through National

Highway Authority of India (NHAI). However, because of limitation of funds, the allocations to the State Government under original works and maintenance and repair works

(which also includes periodic renewal works) so far is Rs. 402.13 crore with details as under:

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
NH(Original) works	64.72	88.36	80.37	233.45
Maintenance works	53.11	54.99	60.58	168.68
				402.13

[Translation]

Land Subsidence in Coal Mine Areas

1243. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large areas of coal mines, particularly in the district of Dhanbad in Jharkhand, have been showing consistent sign of land subsidence;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of people likely to be affected;

(c) whether Government is contemplating any programme for shifting and rehabilitation of these people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up of Medical Grants Commission

1244. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Medical Grants Commission in the country;

(b) if so, the main features, aims and objectives of such a Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission. The modalities of the Commission are being worked out.

Blast in Nagda Mine of BCCL

1245. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the blast that occurred at the Nagda mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited during September 2006;

(b) the number of persons died/injured in the said incident and the details of compensation paid to victims and their families so far;

(c) whether the Government has investigated the causes of explosion in the mine;

(d) if so, the outcome of said investigation; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A major accident took place at Nagda mine of Bhatdih Colliery of Western Jharia Area of BCCL on 6.9.2006 at about 8.00 P.M. (II Shift), in which 50 persons were trapped. The accident occurred in 17th No. Incline, Mahuda bottom seam where Bord and Pillar system of mining and depillaring with san stowing was in progress. Average

production from this incline was about 240 tonnes per day with manpower of 753 on roll and average attendance of about 590. As reported a loud sound was heard from the fan drift of 17th No. Incline at about 8.00 P.M. Three persons (1 Haulage Khalasi and 2 trammers) engaged at 'O' level came out of the mine and were found covered with coal dust. There was explosion in the mine.

(b) Fifty workers lost their lives and four received reportable injury at Bhatdih Mine Disaster under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6.9.2006. The total amount of compensation paid to each dependents of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakh depending upon the length of service. This covers payment towards ex-gratia, Life Cover, Benevolent Fund, Funeral expenses, Compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and Gratuity. This also includes additional ex-gratia of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Coal and sanction of Rs. one lakh announced by Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Besides an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned. Besides, payment of Provident Fund through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) is being disbursed. Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen had already been given (including two under-aged male dependents have been kept in employment roster and their mothers have been given monetary compensation till they become major). One lady dependent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one widow will be offered employment pending genuinity of her claim.

(c) and (d) A court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment, vide notification No. S.O. 1756(E) dated 12.10.06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred in Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand, in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received reportable injury. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Report, action will be taken against the persons found responsible for the accident.

(e) Following remedial measures are taken by the Coal Companies to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

- Promoting participation of workers in safety management.

- Promoting self regulation by management.
- Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.
- Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.
- National Conference on Safety in Mines.
- Interaction at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.
- Conducting Safety Audits.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.
- Directions have been issued to all subsidiary companies of CIL. to review the status of safety of mines and rectification of any infirmity.
- Safety status of all Degree-III gassy mines are being re-assessed with respect to gas, stowing, method of extraction in practice and other safety aspects.

Growth of Economy and Its Distribution

1246. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of the economy and its distribution among different sections of the society;

(b) whether there is any policy to ensure even distribution of benefits of growth to empower and uplift the people living below poverty line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The average annual GDP Growth Rate at 1999-2000 prices for the period from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 is given in the following Table:

Growth rates of GDP at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices

(Rs. crores)

Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
New Series	17,92,292	18,70,387	19,78,055	20,52,586	22,26,041	23,93,671	25,95,339
Growth rate (%)		4.4	5.8	3.8	8.5	7.5	8.4

New series of National Accounts, Base Year 1999-2000, and Press release 29th September, CSO, MOS&PI

The break-up of the growth in GDP between different sections of the society is not available.

(b) and (c) The strategy to ensure even distribution of benefits of growth and to uplift the people living below the poverty line is three-pronged: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

The Government is implementing various anti-poverty programmes for direct income generation of the poor and upliftment of the people living below the poverty line.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL (Below Poverty Line) families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swarnajayati Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The poverty alleviation programme, which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is being implemented in selected 63 Mission Cities. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is applicable to all cities and towns as per the 2001 Census except 63 Mission Cities. The basic objective of IHSDP is to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to slum dwellers.

In addition to the above, the Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of food grains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bridge on NH

1247. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal pertaining to construction of a bridge on the Chambal National Highway in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the sanction is likely to be given and the expected timeframe for construction of said bridge?

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

(b) There is no Chambal National Highway. Chambal river crosses NH-59 in Madhya Pradesh where a bridge already exists. However, there is an existing Chambal

Bridge on National Highway No. 3, in Rajasthan near MP/Rajasthan border where a new bridge is proposed under National Highway Development Project Phase-II.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Upgradation of NH-215

1248. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of upgradation, improvement and widening of National Highway No. 215 passing through Jaipur, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts of Orissa;

(b) the funds allocated and spent therefrom on the project; and

(c) the target date set for the completion and progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The development of National Highway No. 215 passing through Jaipur, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts of Orissa has entrusted to National Highway Authority of India under National Highway Development Project Phase IIIA (NHDP IIIA) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The work of detailed project report is in advance stage of completion. It is too early to indicate the estimated cost of the project and allocation of funds. Overall completion of the project is envisaged by December, 2009.

Under-Weight Children

1249. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks 117th out of the 119 countries in respect of prevalence of under-weight children as per the report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as published in the *Indian Express* dated October 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to bring down the number of under-weight children; and

(d) the percentage decrease in under-weight children from 2001 onwards as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No Sir. As per the report of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as published in the Indian Express dated October 14, 2006, India ranks 96th out of 119 countries covered by the index. The Global Hunger index combines three indicators: child malnutrition, child mortality and estimates of the proportion of people who are calorie deficient.

The efforts made by the Government to bring down the number of under weight children are:

(i) Implementing the Integrated Management of neonatal and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) which covers the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood illnesses and malnutrition.

(ii) Implementing the Infant and Young Child Feeding guidelines.

(iii) Implementing supplementation with micronutrients- vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and salt fortification with iodine.

(iv) Expansion of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and revising the financial norms for supplementary nutrition under ICDS.

(v) Revival of nutrition programme for adolescent girls.

(vi) Advocacy through mass media.

(vii) Various States have taken up these initiatives like the Bal Sanjeevni programme of Madhya Pradesh, Dular project of Bihar and Jharkhand and malnutrition eradication drive of Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Monthly Health and Nutrition days are being organized in every village with the help of the anganwadi workers, ANM(Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist).

The latest available data regarding the nutritional status of children by state as per NFHS II (1998-99) is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Nutritional status of children by state*

Percentage of children under age 3 years classified as undernourished on three anthropometric indices of Nutritional status, according to state, India 1998-99

State	Weight-for-age		Height-for-age		Weight-for-height	
	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹	Percent- age below -3 SD	Percent- age below -2 SD ¹
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
India	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
North						
Delhi	10.1	34.7	18.0	36.8	4.1	12.5
Haryana	10.1	34.6	24.3	50.0	0.8	5.3
Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6	18.1	41.3	3.3	16.9
Jammu and Kashmir	8.3	34.5	17.3	38.8	1.2	11.8
Punjab	8.8	28.7	17.2	39.2	0.8	7.1
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7
Central						
Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1	28.3	51.0	4.3	19.8
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7	31.0	55.5	2.1	11.1
East						
Bihar	25.5	54.4	33.6	53.7	5.5	21.0
Orissa	20.7	54.4	17.6	44.0	3.9	24.3
West Bengal	16.3	48.7	19.2	41.5	1.6	13.6
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3	11.9	26.5	2.0	7.9
Assam	13.3	36.0	33.7	50.2	3.3	13.3
Manipur	5.3	27.5	11.2	31.3	1.8	8.2
Meghalaya	11.3	37.9	24.5	44.9	1.0	13.3
Mizoram	5.0	27.7	13.9	34.6	2.8	10.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	7.4	24.1	11.7	33.0	2.4	10.4
Sikkim	4.2	20.6	9.7	31.7	0.8	4.8
West						
Goa	4.7	28.6	4.8	18.1	0.7	13.1
Gujarat	16.2	45.1	23.3	43.6	2.4	16.2
Maharashtra	17.6	49.6	14.1	39.9	2.5	21.2
South						
Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7	14.2	38.6	1.6	9.1
Karnataka	16.5	43.9	15.9	36.6	3.9	20.0
Kerala	4.7	26.9	7.3	21.9	0.7	11.1
Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7	12.0	29.4	3.8	19.9

Note: Each index is expressed in standard deviation units (SD) from the median of the International Reference Population.

¹Includes children who are below—3 SD from the International Reference Population median.

Delay in Execution of Projects

1250. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether contracts were awarded by the National Highways Authority of India before land acquisition causing time delay and escalation of cost of projects under the National Highways Development Programme-II;

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

(c) the estimated loss and the logic in awarding pre-land acquisition contract;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the action taken against the erring officers; and

(f) the steps 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) to (f) Contracts are generally not awarded for NHDP Phase-II before the land acquisition process is completed. Further, as per the contract, the land is to be handed over in a phased manner and in most of the projects the land is handed over to the contractors as per the handing over schedule prescribed in the Contract Agreement. Till now, there is no delay or escalation on account of land acquisition. The projects are still in execution stage and such delays or escalation can be calculated only after completion of the projects.

Financial Support for Transport Sector Reforms

1251. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has approached the Planning Commission to extend financial support to the State Governments that agree to undertake certain transport sector reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of the reforms to be undertaken in this regard;

(c) whether the State Governments have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake transport sector reforms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the States which have already signed the MoU; and

(f) the financial assistance likely to be provided to each signatory State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (f) No concrete scheme has been either formulated or approved to extend financial support to the State Governments who agree to undertake certain transport sector reforms.

[Translation]

Widening and Strengthening of Roads in Uttar Pradesh

1252. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received revised estimates from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for widening and strengthening of Bidoli-Gangoh road via Chosana road passing through Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has released funds for the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the funds are likely to be released by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) An estimate amounting to Rs. 1344.00 lakhs for widening and strengthening of Bidauli Gangoh Road (via Chausana) in the State of Uttar Pradesh has been submitted by the State PWD on 13.11.2006.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Release of funds can be considered only after the detailed estimate is sanctioned by this Ministry.

[English]

Purchase of Stationery Articles

1253. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ Nos. 4333 and 3924 dated 24.8.05 and 17.05.06 regarding purchase of stationery articles and state:

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) had directed DoPT to revise their instruction dated July 14, 1981 to make local purchases of stationery upto Rs. 10,000/- by all central government departments, their attached and subordinate officer etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing that decision;

(c) whether CoS also decided to make purchases between Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 2,00,000/- through limited tender from cooperative and others;

(d) if so, the reasons for not incorporating the CoS decisions in GFRs, 2005;

(e) the steps taken to relax Rules 145 and 146 of GFRs, 2005 to enable government department and offices to purchase stationery articles upto Rs. 10,000/- from Kendriya Bhandar as decided by CoS on June 2, 2004;

(f) whether the decisions of CoS are binding and are to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the sanctity of appointing CoS to review matters and the steps taken to implement CoS decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) The Committee of Secretaries which met on 2.6.2004 considered the question of

purchase preference for Kendriya Bhandar and made certain recommendations. However, the Ministry of Finance, after extensive review, issued new GFR 2005 modifying provisions of GFR 1963. That Ministry later clarified that the special dispensation for Kendriya Bhandar etc. would no longer be available under the new GFRs and Government Departments etc., should procure stationery and other items strictly in accordance with the provisions of the GFRs.

(f) and (g) The Committee of Secretaries meets to discuss important issues referred to it by Ministries/Departments. It makes recommendations which are considered by the competent authority for an appropriate decision.

[Translation]

Widening/Improvement of NH-69

1254. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to widen, strengthen and repair the National Highway No. 69 from Obeidullahganj to Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) On NH-69 from Obeidullahganj to Nagpur, total 13 works amounting to Rs. 32.77 crore are presently in progress for widening, strengthening and improvement of riding quality and targeted for completion by October, 2007. Also, 4 works amounting to Rs. 5.98 crore are in progress under periodic renewal which are targeted for completion by June, 2007. Entire length excluding stretches where works are in progress and are under performance guarantee is maintained under Ordinary Repairs.

(c) Upgradation and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process.

Toll Tax for Use of Four Lane Roads

1255. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length in kms. of National Highways converted into four lane in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the States where toll tax is already being collected for using four lane roads;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to sign an agreement with some private companies to collect toll tax at the four lane roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise details of the four lane and above National Highways in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) User's fee are being charged on four lane and above section of National Highways in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) National Highways Rules (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) G.S.R. 490 (E) 27.8.1997 allow for collection of user's fee by the executing agency concerned departmentally or through private agency. Accordingly the user's fee is collected by engaging private parties either by way of departmental collection or by, contracting it out on the basis of competitive bidding.

Statement

Details of Four Lane and above National Highways in the country

Sl.No.	States	Total Length (km)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1229
2.	Assam	19
3.	Bihar	221

1	2	3
4.	Chandigarh	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	36
6.	Delhi	72
7.	Goa	26
8.	Gujarat	916
9.	Haryana	406
10.	Jharkhand	175
11.	Karnataka	546
12.	Kerala	54
13.	Madhya Pradesh	125
14.	Maharashtra	592
15.	Manipur	14
16.	Orissa	330
17.	Punjab	268
18.	Rajasthan	866
19.	Tamil Nadu	514
20.	Uttaranchal	7
21.	Uttar Pradesh	829
22.	West Bengal	438

[English]

Toll Policy for National Highways

1256. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a committee to work out the modalities of toll policy for National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A sub-committee headed by Secretary (Expenditure) has been set up under Committee of Secretaries to review the toll policy of National Highways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Market for System Management Software

1257. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the fastest growing market for System Management Software in Asia;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any action plan to make India the largest market for system management software in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of countries that have the largest market for System Management Software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) India is amongst the fastest growing markets for software and services in the APAC region (Asia/Pacific and China Region).

Government of India along with industry association like NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) has been continuously looking at the IT sector's requirement from time to time. Government of India had set up a Task Force on 'Human Resource Development in Information Technology' with the main objective to prepare a long-term strategy for significantly increasing the number of well trained IT professionals in line with economic projections. Based on the recommendations of the task force various follow up actions have been taken *inter-alia* initiation of various specialized courses like VLSI design, information security, Bio-informatics, embedded systems etc., setting-up of Institutes of Information Technology using various models

of central/state/private-sector initiatives. Various measures to generate high quality and high and manpower with specialized skills in software engineering through various agencies such as CDAC (Centre for Development Advanced Computing), DOEACC, NASSCOM etc., which will help development of IT and ITES providers as well as system Management software developers.

The countries with the largest market for IT and ITES include; US, EU, Japan, South Korea and other OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries.

[Translation]

Road Projects near Indo-China Border

1258. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to commission 27 important road projects near Indo-China border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work of these projects is likely to be executed through private companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard so far; and

(f) the benefits likely to accrue from construction of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to undertake phase wise construction of 27 road links of 608 km in the border area along Indo-China border.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Border Road Organization (BRO), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Projects Construction Company (NPCC) and Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department have been assigned with the works of construction of these roads.

(f) The construction of improved roads will enhance the transport connectivity in the area.

Construction of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

1259. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total length of National Highways proposed to be constructed under the National Highways Development Programme in Madhya Pradesh is relatively less;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase this length;

(c) if so, the length in kilometres proposed to be increased;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be done;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the funds for the maintenance, strengthening and expansion of roads in Madhya Pradesh are being sanctioned proportionally; 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) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) 1517 Km. of National Highway length has been identified for construction under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in Madhya Pradesh, which is not relatively less. This includes 657 Km under NHDP-II, 804 Km under NHDP-III, 56 Km under NHDP-V, besides 42 km of NHDP-II is proposed for six laning under NHDP-V.

(f) and (g) The funds for maintenance, strengthening and expansion of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh are being allocated based on length of NHs, utilization of funds during previous year, nature and extent of damages and overall availability of funds etc. The funds allocated during current year are as below:

Head	Funds allocated to Govt. of M.P. in 2006-07 (Rs. in Crore)
Original	80.00
Maintenance	62.94

World Bank Funds for Transport System

1260. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned any funds for improving the transport system in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount released from the said funds to the State?

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.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands Adjourned till 1200 noon.

11.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till
twelve of the clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 673 (E) (Hindi and English versions) approving the Tuticorin Port Trust (Issue of Entry Permit for Vehicles, Equipment and Persons) Regulations, 2005 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5061/2006]

- (2)
- (i) A copy of the Annual Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam for the year 2005-06, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5062/2006]

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 Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-05, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-05.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5063/2006]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2004-05, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2004-05.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5064/2006]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5065/2006]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): On behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5066/2006]

- (2) 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 Standards of Quality of service (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Cable Television — CAS Areas) Regulation, 2006 published in Notification No. 16-2/2006-B and CS in Gazette of India dated 23rd August, 2006.
- (ii) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2006 (9 of 2006) published in Notification No. F.No.11.-13/2006-B and CS in Gazette of India dated 24th August, 2006.
- (iii) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2006 (10 of 2006) published in Notification No. F. No. 6-4/2006-B and CS in Gazette of India dated 4th September, 2006.

- (iv) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (6th Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (12 of 2006) published in Notification No. 5-4/2000-A and P (Voll.II) in Gazette of India dated 10th October, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5067/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Third Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 487 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5068/2006]

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 Economic Growth (Development Planning Centre), Delhi for the year 2005-06, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Economic Growth (Development Planning Centre), Delhi for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5069/2006]

12.04 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-third Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.05 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Fifteenth to Seventeenth Reports

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): I beg to present the following Reports:-

- (1) Fifteenth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Civil Aviation on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Airports Authority of India (AAI)".
- (2) Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Finance (Department of Disinvestment), Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises) and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on "Fair Employment Policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public and Private Sector—a review of position following globalization and other reform measures."
- (3) Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in North Eastern Railway (NER)".

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varma, I hope you are better now.

12.06

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

**Government's failure to maintain internal security
and in particular to deal with alarming growth
of terrorist menace in the country.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice for Adjournment Motion. This is the time to mention it.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Advani ji wanted to say something. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to listen to him. I am waiting for him to come. I am committed to that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I have a request to make, not a point of order. Hon. Shri Advani can speak the way he likes. But other Members should also be allowed to speak. After his speech, the House should not be hijacked. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The trouble is even the Speaker has no right of audience here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We want an assurance. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My only request to all the sides is that let us have the Question Hour everyday. This is not disrespect to any leader, far less to the Leader of the Opposition for whom I have personal regards. I am making this appeal to all sections of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Goyal, What has happened to you? What is troubling you? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is my appeal. It is entirely for the hon. Members to respond to my humble appeal. So many questions are raised during the Question Hour. I am not stopping any issue to be raised.

Please tell me which issue I have not allowed to be raised since I occupied the Chair. I am only requesting all of you. As you know, there are only two constraints, viz., constraint of time and constraint of rule. Even then sometimes I am ignoring the rules because I try to accommodate everybody.

Now, I have to place the text of Adjournment Motion before the House. The Leader of the Opposition.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, are you speaking of Adjournment Motion to be taken up now?

MR. SPEAKER: No. I have to get the leave of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, let the Adjournment Motion be taken up at 2 o' clock. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After taking leave of the House, I will take up other matters.

I have to inform the House that that I have received four notices of adjournment motion from Sarvashri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Prabhunath Singh, L.K. Advani and Subodh Mohite regarding the failure of the Government to maintain internal security and in particular to deal with the alarming growth of terrorist menace in the country.

I have given my consent to Shri L.K. Advani, who has secured first place in the ballot, to move the motion in the following form:-

"Failure of the Government to maintain internal security and in particular to deal with alarming growth of terrorist menace in the country".

Shri L.K. Advani may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, is it now or at 2 o' clock?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you move for admission only. The debate will start later on. But you have to ask for leave of the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I seek leave of the House for moving the adjournment motion regarding failure of the Government to maintain internal security and in particular to deal with alarming growth of terrorist menace in the country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening? Is the leave opposed?

Those who are in favour of leave being granted for moving the adjournment motion may rise in their places.

Several Hon. Members rose.

MR. SPEAKER: I find the number is more than the requisite number.

So, leave is granted. Under Rule 61, the adjournment motion is to be taken up at 16.00 hours or at an earlier hour. Under Rule 62 not less than two hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion. The discussion on the motion may be taken up at 2 p.m. I think the House agrees.

Yes, Shri L.K. Advani.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had granted permission for debate on internal security yesterday under rule 193 but it was deleted from the agenda because it was stated that the hon'ble member who moved that, was not present at that time. My point of order is that what happened to the debate which was permitted under rule 193?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say. He has agreed to not to press it that day. Let us see.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: What will you do in this regard? You had postponed that for today.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After this Adjournment Motion is discussed, discussion under rule 193 does not come.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no business before the House. So, there cannot be any point of order without a discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Conviction and arrest of Shri Shibu Soren

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir this morning when this issue was sought to be raised by some of my other colleagues – I also raised my hand- you said that the issue should be taken up at 12 noon, and not during Question Hour. I would say that personally I am also inclined to agree that the Question Hour goes on as usual. If there are. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you later on. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear your side later on. Please sit down. Shri Rupchand Pal, this is not right. I will also hear other side also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If there is a provision in the rules that on occasions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If there is a provision in the rules that on occasions that a Member may move for suspension of Question Hour, that is provided in order to see that when there are extraordinary situations. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is quoting the rule. Why are you objecting to it?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I have seen the Indian Parliament from 1970 as a Member. I have seen even the earlier years as a journalist. I can say that what happened yesterday is unprecedented in the history of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* If you do not realize it, you are doing great harm to the whole political system. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time in the Indian political history has a Member of the Council of Ministers been found guilty and convicted for murder. ...*(Interruptions)* From the court, he was taken straight to the Tihar Jail. Yet they seem to think that it is ordinary and there is nothing extraordinary. ...*(Interruptions)* You should feel more ashamed than myself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, please ask them to listen. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What more can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If the ruling party thinks that this is ordinary, this is not extraordinary, I only feel sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Leader of the Opposition, there is not even a notice for the suspension of Question Hour.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have not given.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I have given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You have not given.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This is not Question hour. He has given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice for suspension of Question Hour.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I have given.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given it for the mention of it after Question Hour. No. I cannot accept. This is the report.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, you have permitted me now. This is not Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted you. That is different. There is no notice, no Motion for suspension of Question Hour.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This is not the Question Hour. This is after the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: About that, I have permitted you. It was said that there is a provision. Yes, I know that there is a provision,

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody took recourse to that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It was referred to that. They say that there is nothing extraordinary.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice to adjourn the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding Adjournment Motion, I have already admitted. I have received your notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is now more than two-and-a-half years that this Government has been in office. *...(Interruptions)* I remember that when Dr. Manmohan Singh formed his Council of Ministers and announced the names, at that time itself an important issue raised by the Opposition referred to the credentials of those Ministers. For the first time, it is remarked like this. Till now, we have been hearing of criminalization of politics. But now we have seen criminalization of the Council of Ministers of the Government. *...(Interruptions)* The reply at that time used to be that it is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to select his team. He has exercised his prerogative to select his team.

Now, Sir, in this particular case, the person who was convicted yesterday has been sent to jail. The moment a Non-Bailable Warrant was issued against him, he was made to resign. At that time we were told—at least this is what I know—that the case related to some riots in Jharkhand. I did not know at that time that the case in which he was accused of murder was also going

on. I am sure that the Government must be knowing it, the Prime Minister must be knowing it because this is a case which has been lodged by the CBI. It is the CBI that has done it. Now, here is this person convicted! In the eyes of political analysts, the UPA Government has brought disgrace upon itself.

The whole political system has been maligned and disgraced only because, in the exercise of this prerogative, perhaps, the Prime Minister did not exercise the necessary vigilance and caution. So, my request is that the Prime Minister must come to the House and offer an explanation as to what happened when he was appointed for the second time and when the CBI case was instituted against him. It may have been much earlier and the CBI case is not an ordinary case. It is a case in which there are components of blackmail, kidnapping and murder. All these aspects are there. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, my point is that the Prime Minister owes an apology to the nation and an explanation to the Parliament. Therefore, the Prime Minister must come here and explain as to what are the fact of this case, how did he exercise his prerogative, what has happened exactly and unless the Parliament is reassured on this, he will not be doing justice to the whole matter.

MR. SPEAKER: India's politics also requires that the House should function everyday properly.

Shri Dasmunsi.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear what he has to say.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, on behalf of the Government, in response to the comments made by the distinguished Leader of the Opposition Advaniji, I have to inform you that in this House we had the opportunity

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

to witness two Ministers in Council of Ministers being charge-sheeted, one while we were sitting on the other side and another while are sitting on the Treasury Benches. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want the Prime Minister's reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, if they do like this, this is not correct. Let them not threaten us. ...*(Interruptions)* If they are not afraid of hearing me, let them not do like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. How can you dictate to him?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, why are they afraid of listening to me?. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Any Member speaking without my permission will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*...*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am not a jurist to interpret the criminal law. But in my lay knowledge of law, I can say that any crime which is committed either to murder an individual or a community, both are same. I have the privilege to see a Council of Ministers in which the distinguished Leader of the Opposition was there in which when he took the oath of office he had the CBI investigation going on against him for the heinous charge of communal riot. ...*(Interruptions)* At that time, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the standard that it is his discretion to choose his Council of Ministers and said that unless anybody is convicted he is not a criminal. Accordingly, our Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Harin Pathak, please don't provoke me to dig out everything, then it will be most embarrassing for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. The hon. Leader of the Opposition said that one should be prepared to listen to others also. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, our Prime Minister not only took the resignation but made it abundantly clear that anybody who is in the Government if they are convicted of any charge, they have to leave the Government. It is very clear. But in the legal jurisprudence, till a trial is on everybody has a right to defend himself before the court of law and till the end of that, nobody is guilty in the eyes of law. When Advaniji had the tenacity to carry on as the Deputy Prime Minister of the country in spite of having been charged by the CBI for indulging in communal riots in the country and for not killing one but motivating the rioters to kill thousands and thousands of people in the nation and demolishing the mosque, it is most unfortunate to see Advaniji raising this issue. It is really amazing to me. I would like to know in what capacity and with what moral authority he is sermonizing the House. If it had been raised by any other Member, I could understand that.

Sir, Advaniji is still facing the charge, still he is not free from the charge. So, it is better that he does not give advice to us. Our Prime Minister has taken a very clear stand on this matter and so he does not need to give an apology to the House or to the nation. On the other hand, he has proved how transparent he and his Council of Ministers are.

Therefore, he should not try to take a competent lawyer with him to defend his cases because he is charged with the case of dividing the nation, to kill not one but thousands of people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us go one by one. I will call one by one. Let him speak, he is your partner.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You have given the ruling just now that I will be given an opportunity to speak after the speech of the leader of opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be given after this issue. What is this?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion which is going on. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No one want to hear.

[*English*]

I will allow you to speak. Be brief.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your hon. Minister has spoken on behalf of the Government, I take it. Now you are also trying to say something, I do not take that. Is this the way the House will function? No.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion which is going on has been raised by hon. Advaniji I am partially agreed with what Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said. He said that it is the privilege of the Prime Minister and undoubtedly it is the privilege of the Prime Minister to include any person in the cabinet. Secondly, it is in the law that a person can remain in the cabinet unless he has been found guilty. We have no objection to it also. I would like to raise only one issue and it is the matter, which was related to Shibu Soren. I do not want to refer the name of anyone...*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I am not mentioning the name of anyone...*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not true. No that will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: As C.B.I. has investigated the matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him. I have allowed him to speak.

[*Translation*]

Please speak what ever you want to say.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: CBI has investigated this matter. CBI comes under Prime Minister. Hon'ble Prime Minister must have been aware of all the things as to what is fact or not. Even it is quite possible that CBI must have informed about the final status of Shibu Soren case. Mr. Speaker, Sir in such a situation I would like to say that it may be a political conspiracy.

For example we had been convicted and went to jail, there are more people in the government like that, it is being talked about. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, he is authorized to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: No one can speak against us, I tell you, please listen. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You, tell me, what should I do. Please sit down. I will give an opportunity to your leader also.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are violating my order by speaking from there. I will issue a notice of privilege against you. Violation of the Chair's direction or order is a breach of privilege. It applies to all sides. Please speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a prisoner raise a slogan-Jab tak jail mein chana rehega, Tab tak aana-jana bana rehega, this slogan is famous in jail. I would like to tell you that this is the slogan of a prisoner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not subject now. Leave all the things.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: There are some ministers in the Government who often go to the jail. ...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Delete that name.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: In this situation, I would like to say that the tainted ministers should be expelled from the Government and Prime Ministerji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Devendraji what is this.

[English]

I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to provoke him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude within a minute, I would like to say, that perhaps it is for the first time in the country that a person has been sentenced or sent to jail while holding the office of a minister.* ... This is my only submission to you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Delete that portion.

Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Court has convicted yesterday Shri Shibu Soren who was a Cabinet Minister in the UPA Government. ...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister asked him to tender his resignation and he immediately resigned as he has been convicted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): How do you know?. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It has come in newspapers and everyone knows. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter? Is it question-answer session?

[English]

You are going on putting questions to him.

[Translation]

What is the matter? You are doing this being a senior member.

[English]

You were a Minister also. It cannot be one-way traffic; you will speak and you will not allow others to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When BJP raised the question of morality, raised the question of the continuance of tainted Ministers, and raised the question of the Minister involving criminal cases, I am rather surprised. Sir, the then Deputy Prime Minister and the leader of BJP continued in the NDA Government for six long years. He was charge sheeted for the demolition of Babri Masjid on 6th December, 1992. After demolition of Babri Masjid, many innocent people were killed because of the action of BJP. Under the leadership of Shri L.K. Advani, the then Deputy Prime Minister in the NDA Government, Babri Masjid was demolished. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri basu Deb Acharia's observation.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: After the demolition of Babri Masjid, hundreds of innocent people were killed. Who are responsible? They are responsible. The three Ministers who were charge sheeted continued in the Government. We raised this issue on the floor of this House but they continued for six long years. Today, they are raising the question of morality and they are raising the question of tainted Ministers. They have no right to raise this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mohan Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not Shri Mohan Singh. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji you speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that moral standards are continuously on decline in public life and such people are occupying high posts against whom. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mohan Singh's observation.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It is true that it is the first case in the history of this country that court had to punish a minister of cabinet rank. The punishment would be known on 30th of November. When journalists asked the Prime Minister after completion of one year in office, PM said that coalition governments have some limitations due to which tainted politicians are made Ministers. Now it is clear that Prime Minister has publicly accepted that it is his compulsion to induct tainted members as Ministers. My second submission is that those people do not have moral authority to raise this issue who are charge sheeted by CBI and against whom cases are pending in courts. I request all the parties whether ruling or opposition to follow moral standards in public life and high posts should not be offered to those against whom cases are pending

in courts irrespective of the party to which they belong. Because it is very unfortunate that many Members of this House are in jail and some are threatening to commit suicide. Public has a negative opinion about us whether we are in the ruling side or in the opposition. Therefore, we should come together to prepare a model code of conduct. I think that the case of Shibu Soren is a message for us. Sir, you should call an all-party meeting to prepare a model code of conduct.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, I would call you on your issue separately. But if you want to say anything on this ongoing issue, you may do so.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to say something on this?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sri, I am surprised to listen because Hon. Members very often have discussion in the House about tainted ministers. There is a party in this country whose character has been exposed when its leaders were charge sheeted by CBI. ...(Interruptions) They do not have any moral authority. ...(Interruptions) Only those who have moral authority may speak on the issue of Shri Shibu Soren. BJP has no moral authority because three of its leaders remained ministers even after being charge sheeted. ...(Interruptions) We do not support your version of morality. ...(Interruptions) We continuously raised questions against your tainted character. ...(Interruptions) When Babri Masjid was demolished millions of people became insecure. That incident broke the chord of communal harmony, weakened the secular principles and many parts of the country faced communal riots. The country would not become weak from external aggression but from internal threats. The country is becoming weak due to them because they want to divide it on religious lines. Therefore, they do not have any moral authority to speak on the issue of Shri Shibu Soren.

[English]

The law will take its own course.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I only wish my colleagues listen to me. I have a very bad throat.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

I agree with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi-ji that till a man is not convicted, he is considered to be innocent. I agree with him. That is a legal position. But there is a question of morality also in the public life, and the morality of public life enjoins upon me to tell the House that we are unhappy with the situation. We are extremely unhappy with the situation that has occurred. It has given an opportunity and a weapon in the hands of your political opponents to pin down the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Not mine! I have no opponent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Not you, Sir, it is on the other side. You are above all of us in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope you treat that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But Sir, I am saying that devil should not quote from the scriptures. ...*(Interruptions)* That is my simple statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It applies to you also.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, it applies to me also. This is the problem inherent of impatience and intolerance. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I can only say this.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope you can imagine my problem.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, while saying so that devils should not quote from the scriptures, I only remind that there had been occasions in the past where a charge-sheeted person in a criminal case had occupied the exalted position of Home Minister of this country. Therefore, if politics has been polluted, at least, my hon. Friend Mr. Advani cannot claim immunity from that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go on. Your statement will be recorded and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the speech of Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You see this. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Order please. Let there be order in the House. What is this going on? Mr. Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is, if Parliament has to function, there has to be freedom of speech within Parliament also. I want Mr. Advani to respond to me. Freedom of speech should be guaranteed in Parliament.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He has directly asked me to respond to it. I would say that in my entire public life, there had been occasions when there had been movements of different nature and if a movement somehow becomes very strong, then at the end of it, the police and the investigation authorities frame charges against so many leaders of that movement. I am sure the Communist Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What type of movement?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know what type of movement. Movement is a movement. Sir, a movement is a movement. The charges framed are always criminal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, listen to him. What is this going on? Mr. Acharia, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He had asked me to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? I do not understand this. Please sit down.

Do not record anything. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Mr. Advani to respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have asked him to respond, and he is responding.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yoy have asked me to respond.

[Translation]

I have heard these off repeated things many times. Therefore. I want to clarify it again that I have been a part of many such movement after which. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to you all to please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He has sought clarification from me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly take you seats.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all hon. Members that a sensitive issue has been raised. Although I had made a request at that time, the Question Hour could not be held. Let us respond to each others' issue in a dignified manner. I am appealing to you all. How can this method of interrupting others continue? Therefore, Mr. Dasgupta, you had requested the Leader of the Opposition to respond. He is responding. Let us listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is obliged to speak to suit the others' wishes. Everybody will speak what he wants to speak.

If it is unparliamentary, if it is derogatory, I am there to control that. It is my job. You are not there to control anybody else. But this is what is happening in this House. There is no intention to listen to each other. How can there be a debate or a dialogue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You give that rule. I will ask him to get out immediately.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advaniji, please conclude quickly. I am giving opportunity to all.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is totally outside the rule that is happening now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not completed.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you have not finished. You asked him to respond and he is responding. What can I do? You cannot object.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have the decency to listen to each other.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, till date I have been ignoring this issue, but since the issue has been raised today in this manner, I want to clarify that I have never felt guilty that I was very active in Ayodhya movement. *...(Interruptions)* I felt sorry because. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, this is not fair. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I am very sorry to say this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, I am going to name you. You have to go. You are not even in your seat. You are deliberately disturbing me and the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): No, sir. I am not.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you are. I am so agonized.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am making so many appeals. Can we not behave as serious persons with some responsibility? Who is benefiting by this? Who is benefiting?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is your misconception that by disturbing, they are benefiting and that is why you are disturbing.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give some lessons to your Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It applies to all sides. Why is there this impatience not to hear each other?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will do it now. It is enough. Mr. Athawale, I am going to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly pardon the hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to ask you to leave.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, please do not do that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am appealing to you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advaniji, please conclude.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I will conclude by saying this. ...

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir I am proud to be a part of Shri Ran Janambhumi movement but I am sorry, for the demolition of mosque that day in 1992. ...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: (Kolkata-North East): Then why do not you represent in court. ...(Interruptions) If it is so then fight it out. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? What is this? I am very sorry. It seems you have no respect for the chair. I am very sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, I am very sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want me, I will go away. If you do not want me to be in the Chair, I will go away without any regret. I cannot preside over the liquidation of the entire system of parliamentary democracy. I do not want to remain here. If you do not want me, please tell me. I will go away immediately. I will not take even a second. But I cannot allow, I cannot see, I cannot tolerate it any longer. Please. It is not a matter of amusement to any.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all hon. Members, particularly the leaders to cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would conclude by saying that I am proud to be a part of Ram Janambhoomi movement of Ayodhya but I am extremely sorry for the demolition of the mosque. I have said it before the Liberhan Commission also that I do not have a hand in the demolition directly or indirectly. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have not concluded. I request you to please give me two more minutes to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the distinguished Leaders of the House that in the eyes of the law whether you kill a Private Secretary – according to the observations of the court – or kill so many people through the movement are the same. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb, then I will not call you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, now it is clearly proved on the floor of the House that Shri Advani takes pride in the demolition of Babri Masjid. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, what is this? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Advani, your views on this issue are on record, and you have said about it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Advani, you have said it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Advani, you have made your position clear, and you have expressed your regret on that issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I have said it before the Liberhan Commission also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps, they did not listen to you carefully. I am listening to you carefully.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But the intervention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or what he is saying now is a deliberate. ...*

MR. SPEAKER: That word will be deleted. It will be deleted.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am only saying that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am only saying that that there are movements in the history of the world that have been applauded by history like the movement led by Mahatma Gandhi or the movement led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But there are also movements in the history led by Hitler, which have been blacklisted as one of the black chapters in the history of international political life. Mr. Advani will go down in the history as a ...*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please delete it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged it. It is expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged it. I also do not approve of such statements.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged it.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.47¹/₂ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Harin Pathak and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged it then and there itself.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

12.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our all members are very sad. The kind of comment Shri Dasguptaji has made in this august House in gross violation of the dignity and decorum. ...(*Interruptions*) of House is unprecedented. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): We also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Please, this is a question of our sentiments. I respect you. ...(*Interruptions*) Such... words have never been used from our side against any leader. They have used such derogatory words. The entire House should condemn this incident. If laxity is shown to a person, other are likely to follow suit and any person including Hon'ble Members could be targeted. I demand that the concerned Member should be called, he should regret and apologize and the statement should be withdrawn, otherwise it will be difficult for us to sit in this House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I appreciate your sentiments. You will please recall that I had immediately expunged all these words.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We are thankful to you for that.

MR. SPEAKER: I had immediately expunged, and I am also sorry that such strong words are being used. This will not help us in any way. Since they are derogatory, I have immediately deleted them. Therefore, I will request all of you to let us have a debate of a very high level.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He should withdraw that word.

MR. SPEAKER: That is entirely for him; he is here.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Our sentiments are hurt. If it is only deleted, then nobody will listen to us. Do not push us to the wall where we have no option but to speak. Do not push us to the wall.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel any hon. Member to do or not to do anything. But it is entirely for him to do what he thinks fit. In the context of proper running of the House, I will make a request to him to consider the same.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Let us not threaten each other. I am in the Parliament from 1985. I am associated with Mr. Advani in Rajya Sabha for more than 15 years. I hold him in high esteem. I do not know what his assessment about me is, but I hold him in high esteem. The point is, I had used a word which I should not have used; I agree. But I should also say that Mr. Advani had used a word..*" which is unparliamentary.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He said that after you have used that word.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not correct. That has also been expunged. Now, he has withdrawn it. He has expressed his regret.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Advani should also withdraw that word. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has expressed his regrets.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, Mr. Advani should also withdraw that word.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): He made a clear statement and immediately after that, you have distorted it. He said that it was a ..."

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot go on like this. You have to do that outside.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI: You can recall what Mr Advani said.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that, he should not have used that word.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My point is that Mr. Advani is not coming out and I am sorry for that. He

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

should have said that he should not have used that word. is an unparliamentary word just as the word... Both words are unparliamentary. I am sorry that I should not have used it, but Mr. Advani should say that he should not have used it.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I leave it to him.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is a difference between the words used. It was a blatant untruth, if he wants it that way.

MR. SPEAKER: It will add to your stature, Advaniji.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I do not want to add to my stature.

MR. SPEAKER: I want.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have heard these comments so often and also because he said that I should personally reply to him. I replied very clearly that I am proud of my association with the movement, but I am extremely sorry about the demolition. I have said that a hundred times. Therefore, when he said, he was proud that it was demolished', as I said, it was not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: It was 'not correct'.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Anyway, I do not want to do anything further. He has regretted what he said. So, let the matter be treated as closed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is the spirit in which we should work. That chapter is over now.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a issue in this House which is very sensitive and of national importance. The weekly police report was presented in 2006 in which strategy to combat and tackle terrorism was presented. In context of the said report, two senior officers of ADG (Railway) level, presented their programme in the conference of senior police officers at 12.30 hrs. on the second day on 25th November, 2006 at Lucknow.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the State Police?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: They said it about the country. This is not related to State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you intervene. I am only asking. He is a very experienced Member.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The news item titled "Emarate Saraiya, dehshat-gardon ka mahfuj maskan" published in daily Hindustan Express (Urdu) on 28th November, 2006 is very objectionable. This will ... not only in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All are hon. and responsible Members.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. Not only the people of West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand but crores of people all over India have been misled through this news. A wrong message has been conveyed to the nation by this news. An atmosphere of fear and Insecurity has been created among minority community.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You send it to the Home Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I demand from the Minister of Home Affairs that the persons who have indulged in such a false propaganda vitliating the atmosphere have done an act which tantamounts to damaging the secular fabric of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should keep some patience. Are you not ready to give anyone the opportunity to speak?

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, he should give reference of what he is saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him end and then we shall see that. You cannot all the time intervene.

[Mr. Speaker]

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The way you are behaving it is impossible to conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak with your permission. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should speak in brief.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I am ready to accept your instructions. You give me only one minute's time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a feeling of insecurity has been prevailing among crores of people belonging to minorities who keep faith in the secular structure of Indian constitution. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But you have to say where it has been published.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You mention a paper, without naming the paper.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We have mentioned the name of daily newspaper Hindustan

Express. This is the same Imar it-e saria, Phulwari Sharif which was founded under the Chairmanship of Maulana Abul Kalam jee in the year 1921. This institution has been engaged in different social, religious and public welfare activities. His Excellency, President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had visited this institution in the year 2005 and the local MP Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was also present there. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav have made available Rs. 35 lakh from MPLADS fund for constructing the hospital. The name of this hospital is Sazzad and not only Muslims but patients from Hindu Community are also treated here. ...(Interruptions) I want to say that as questions has been raised on the strategy regarding tackling terrorism discussed on second day of police week, 2006 by two senior officers, ADG Railway and Uttar Pradesh Police, I want to bring only the title of the Report to your cognizance, not the details. The title is:

[English]

Scenario of terrorism in India—Gradually whole of India affected now. Terrorist activities notices in places where there is a sizeable Muslim population. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree. That is most undesirable thing which should not be said against any particular community.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What is going on?. ...(Interruptions)

They are pointing finger at the entire community. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Spread of terrorism; reason for terrorism in India; study Sharmjeevi Express Bomb Blast, 2005; detailed investigations brought to light a small place named Fulwari Sharif near Patna. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has been noted. Give it to the hon. Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The basic of spirit of Secular Indian Constitution has been violated. ... (Interruptions) Social and religious feelings, unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country have been challenged under a planned conspiracy, so I demand from the hon. minister of Home Affairs that action should be taken against the officer having malafide intention out to harm the communal harmony, brotherhood and internal security of the country. This should be investigated by Central agency, CBI so that the feeling of insecurity among crores of people could be removed. ... (Interruptions) Guilty officers should be penalized.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, do not take names. Otherwise, I will not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It's all right. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. Give it to the hon. Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): have also given the notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bully me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have also given the notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You go on shouting.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you. We have given bytes on T.V. speaking from here as I have been authorized by my party. I went to the lobby. ..."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to give me proper notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: ..."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please delete it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have given the notice. It is a matter about my Parliamentary constituency. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You won't get opportunity right now. You will get that tomorrow at 12 o' clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You give me an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: This notice is not meant for this.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I won't.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, would you sit down or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have commit to him because earlier he could not speak. He wanted to raise the matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, please give me just one minute to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You won't get even half a minute. The time for this notice is over. I won't give you time now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Such type of comments are being made. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word of him.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time tomorrow. I will allow you just after the question hour. You table the notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has to move an Adjournment Motion on an important matter.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): You allowed every Party leader to speak. You also allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: That matter is over.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will our party not speak. Don't we deserve respect?

MR. SPEAKER: You do and we respect you a lot.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: This is the way we are respected.

MR. SPEAKER: How do we shall respect you. We are saying it so.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: We walk out in protest for not getting a chance to speak.

14.17 hrs.

[SHRI ILYAS AZMI then left the House]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have bad luck.

14.19 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT—Contd.

Government's failure to maintain internal security and in particular to deal with alarming growth of terrorist menace in the country

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, I beg to move "that the House be adjourned".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India got independence in 1947. It has been 59 years since we got independence. Since then, India had to fought four wars with its neighbours. If we add Kargil to it, then it become five. Out of which four are with Pakistan and one with China. But this fact should be recognized that the terrorism prevailing in India for the last 20-25 years is mainly sponsored by our neighbour with whom we have also fought wars. So far, the losses we have suffered due to terrorism are more than those suffered during four-five wars. In this way, about 70 thousand person have been killed so far, out of which 10 thousand are our security personnel. So many people were not killed even in those four-five wars. It is right that after the war of 1971, Pakistan got to understand that it can't fight with India directly. They have their own conceived notions from the beginning till date and these

notions have been proved to be baseless one by one. They incurred such heavy loss in the war of 1971 that they not only were defeated badly but also lost a large part of territory in form of Bangladesh. The war was not so big. Not only this, we had their 94 thousand prisoners of war. When their Prime Minister visited Shimla he had the foremost thinking that he should get back his 94 thousand prisoners and if it doesn't take place it will be difficult for him to return to his country. I am mentioning this thing as I think that they changed their strategy after that. After changing the strategy, they adopted, what people call 'low cost war' and make terrorism a part of their state policy. I got to know the 'low' of low cost war when I was in the Government. Since the start of Terrorism we need to spend Rs. 730 crore per year to fight this "proxy war" and they spend only Rs. 24 crore per year. This is the difference because we don't know where they will attack in the direct war, we know as to where we would be attacked and who will attack but we don't know anything here. In this proxy war of 'low cost war' the attacking country knows but the country to be attacked does not know anything and therefore we have to make arrangement at every place. I have seen it with my own eyes. I admit that this war which started by the end of the seventies and the beginning of eighties is continuing till today. I was in the Government during the end of seventies and also for six years during the previous Government. Before joining the Government and on the said two occasions when I was in the Government, I have directly experienced the changing security environment and security scenario in the country.

I recall when I was the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in Morarji Bhai Government, I got an opportunity to visit Karachi which is my birth place. When I went to Pakistan, there was military rule there. Military men escorted all the politicians and military squads and motorcade trailed them. There might have been a couple of constables or a Pakistani officer with me. When I returned from Pakistan, I got heavy security cover. The politicians are provided a heavy security cover and when innocent persons are killed in the event of a terrorist incident, I feel embarrassment that I have a heavy security

[English]

Only because I am a privileged person.

[Translation]

That embarrassment still haunts me till today. It is on account of this embarrassment that when the

incumbent Minister of Home Affairs took charge, I wrote him the first letter asking for the withdrawal of my security as I do not want security but he did not accede to my request. I can understand it. If I were in his place I would also not have granted such a request.

[English]

Basically, it is a sense of embarrassment. I am merely trying to point out the security environment change that has come about.

[Translation]

My complaints against the present Government is that given this change in the contemporary security scenario, it still feels that the existing laws are sufficient to tackle the situation. The entire world does not buy this view. The UN security council has advised the entire world to formulate new laws because terrorism is a new phenomenon for the entire world that it had never witnessed earlier. We have experienced the war and 'Defence of India Rules' etc. are in existence to face such a situation. However, this is a normal situation. And yet the existing laws are not sufficient to tackle it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sub-judice case regarding Bombay bomb explosion has been hotly discussed these days. The Minister of Law and the Minister of Home Affairs are present here. Sibalji is also sitting here. I would like to ask them that when the incident of serial bomb explosions had occurred in Bombay in 1993, several persons were arrested in that connection. The court cases have been going on against them and now after so many years the verdict is going to be delivered. Yesterday only, a particular criminal was pronounced guilty on whom several comments are being made. However, without going into that matter I would only like to submit that many people have been found guilty. If there were no laws like TADA, would it have been possible? Is it possible under the common laws of the country? I have witnessed that earlier there were many criminals who used to go scot free. They often adopted unfair means to get themselves acquitted. It was not our Government which enacted TADA, rather it was by the Congress Government and all of a sudden they got it scrapped. It was scrapped on the ground that it is used against a particular community, however, I do not agree with their view. I accept that if TADA or any other draconian law is formulated, it is often abuse. I will not deny this fact. I know that I have addressed major anti TADA conferences. We had

[Shri L.K. Advani]

organized such a conference in Ahmedabad. Prior to this TADA was used against the farmers agitation and the farmers were arrested under this law. I had gone to address one such rally.

[English]

Any Law can be abuse. Even the best of laws have been abused.

[Translation]

There are good laws in the country, however, these are also abused. Recently, we have formulated a law to protect women from domestic violence. It is a good law, however, it is also abused. It is not justified to repeal any law merely on the ground that it is abused. TADA was repealed by the Congress Government. POTA was formulated by our Government because we felt that the advice of the UN security council is justified because democratic countries all over the world normally do not have such laws. It is true that the countries under the dictatorship rule have such laws. Despite that democratic countries like U.K., America, Germany have formulated such special laws. That is why we also formulated POTA. When we felt that the then major opposition party is not in its favour, we convened a joint session of the Parliament and got POTA passed. The moment Congress Party came to power it repealed 'POTA'. *Prima-facie* opinion was that

[English]

We should be able to overcome this problem of terrorism. That was the principal thing.

[Translation]

I allege that the present Government has no perspective regarding the war against terrorism. I do not know whether discussion has been held in this regard or not.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government had recently convened a conference of DGPS and IGPs of all the States. In that conference DIB, (Director Intelligence Bureau) Shri Narsimha had given a statement in which he said.

[English]

This law is inadequate. It needs more teeth.

[Translation]

I do not remember any occasion during the last 60 years when any DIB has ever given any such statement in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Whatever he is saying is not correct. DIB has not said like this. Whatever has been reported in newspapers is not correct.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I did not come across his contradiction, though I have seen your contradiction.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am stating it in the House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: You are contradicting it now, has not given any such statement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not that it is wrong because contradiction has not been given in the newspapers. It cannot be said.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I think it is something that had happened for the first time in the history of the country where publicly he has said it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Every word of that Conference is recorded. We have the video tapes and the audio tapes. It is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have gone by what I have in my hand that is what he said.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that there is no contradiction. Now there is a contradiction.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But the contradiction is coming after seven days. He has not contradicted it. It is the Minister who has contradicted it.

I am referring to POTA and TADA. If TADA had not been there, quite a few of them would have gone scot free.

[Translation]

When one person was held guilty in the court it was told about him that he had personally parked that jeep in Javeri Bazar which was laden with RDX and on account of which 74 persons were killed.

[English]

The doing was of one person.

[Translation]

In this way, all are facing separate cases. I would like to appeal the Government even today that it should at least consult those persons who deal with this problem. The Government should seek the advice of legal experts as to whether.

[English]

Under the present law, really speaking, terrorists can be booked and terrorists can be brought home?

[Translation]

Common laws are already in place. Despite foreign funding to terrorism and its dangerous presence in the country it is being discussed in several countries as well as ours that the capital punishment should be abolished.

[English]

UK does not have capital punishment. In our country it is a common perception that capital punishment is needed here as a deterrent.

[Translation]

Many persons question its relevance. They have every right to express their views, I honour their sentiments and may also participate in that discussion.

[English]

I would definitely say that if a deterrent law is needed, it is needed more for a terrorist than for an ordinary murderer.

[Translation]

A person accused of murder gets acquitted because the prosecution fails to bring evidence against him. The campaign for his retrial was launched and success was achieved in it and after that he was penalized. He was found guilty of raping and murdering the girl. There is no demand for clemency in this regard. The crime was

committed against one person. Rape and murder of a girl is a heinous crime. Therefore, those who demanded retrial have done a good job and the court's verdict that on the basis of the present evidence.

[English]

He is guilty and he should be sentenced to death. He should be hanged until he is dead.

[Translation]

I appreciate both. But compare it with the demand of clemency for Afzal. He has not committed crime against one particular person. He has committed crime against the Parliament, against the entire country and the democracy. After that the demand of clemency is being put very strongly and a Chief Minister of the Congress Party has strongly advocated it and one former Chief Minister has said that he does not agree with it. The Government is silent over this issue. It is not taking any decision, though decision should be taken. The demand of clemency for General Vaid's assassins was also made. As per my information, within 15 hours of the decision for execution, the Government endorsed that execution should be carried out.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Why they had not penalized the killers of our former Prime Minister? Beside that, why they took terrorists to Kandhar and released them over there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Kandhar issue has been raised many a time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kapil Sibal, you can speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not have it recorded in future.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You take the permission of the Chair.

[Translation]

Swain ji please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He is a Minister. So, he can interrupt at any time. He is not an ordinary Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not interrupting. I am just informing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He is still interrupting. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that terrorism has increased, but our Minister of Home Affairs will refute my contention and say that he has given us figures to substantiate his claim. Sir, it appears from the figures, that terrorism has been checked. After going through these figures anybody would feel that the situations is very good. But that day I was astonished when I met two key witnesses in the Conference of IGPs and DGPs of all the States of the country. There were two such witnesses who were ready to express their point of view. One of them was D.I.B. about whose report it was said after ten days that it was not right and the second one is the hon. Minister of Home Affairs himself whose speech is with me. If I quote from his speech, he would deny having said any such things. He said:-

[English]

"Some Let operatives are also being trained specifically for sabotage of oil installations. There are plans to occupy some inhabited islands and use them as basis for launching operations on the Indian Post."

This is what the hon. Minister of Home Affairs said.

[Translation]

Is that an ordinary statement?

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have said it in the DGPs' Conference and not in the public meeting.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It was said in the DGPs' Conference and in IGPs' Conference in a speech which was circulated to the Press. I have got it from the press. I have not got it from anyone else. It was published in the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Shri Advaniji, you know it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know everything. Therefore, I was surprised.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have been a Presiding Officer; you have been a Minister and you know it that if you want to make any statement on the floor of the House, you have to take the responsibility. You cannot say that because it has appeared in the newspapers, you can rely upon it. Here is a person who is standing up before you and the entire House and saying that certain statements which are attributed to me are not made. I am saying that the IB Director has not made certain statement. Hon. Prime Minister has not made certain Statement. You shall have to rely on me rather than the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, it is a very difficult situation. I can understand that something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not denying it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: You are not denying. That is very good. This is exactly what I want. After all, these are the copies which I have received. One, which was originally drafted and the other which was subsequently amended by you. ...*(Interruptions)* So much so that the word 'terrorist' and the word 'enemy' have been replaced by mischief monger, by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have access to his draft also.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, this is the mentality. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh, you are shouting too much.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am raising a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not there to decide. Even if I wrongly decide, you have to accept it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Whenever a Member is quoting from a document or from a report, he has to authenticate it.

Secondly, it is very dangerous that whatever he wanted to say, which means draft and whatever he has actually said, both the copies are in the hands of Shri L.K. Adani. This is also a sign of lack of security in your system. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): This is the age of Right to Information. Everything including the draft we can obtain. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please note that any interruption without my permission will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Dasgupta is only endorsing me that under this Government even security is unsafe. One does not know. But so far as these documents are concerned, there is nothing secret about it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Even Shri Advani is also a security hazard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: So far as the country is concerned, for its security I am willing to undertake any hazard. Now, the situation is that there is no point in denying anything, particularly after the Right to Information law has been enacted.

MR. SPEAKER: That law is there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have pay a heavy price all these days. I have talked about fatalities and the cost involved. Terrorism has caused heavy loss during the last 20-25 years and the most evident is the ouster of all Kashmiri pandits from the Kashmir valley.

[*English*]

It is safe. It is absolutely clean.

[*Translation*]

When we were in power, we tried our best to create an atmosphere conducive to their return, but it did not materialise. Now, what efforts are being made by the present Government? Please give me information in this regard. That day, a decision was taken to give a compensation of Rs. 7 lakh to each the Gujarat riot victims. I would definitely like to know whether the Government has taken a similar decision in respect of the Kashmir pandits as well, who were ousted years ago, and many of whom were also killed? If compensation is being given to the Gujarat riot victims it should be given equally to the members of both the communities killed and this should not be a particular community specific decision. I also understand that political instability in all the States is a serious matter be it in North-Eastern States, Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir or Punjab (where normalcy has been restored) or in naxalite affected states. I have heard it from somewhere. I have not directly interacted with anybody, but the Police officers of Andhra Pradesh who have to deal with naxalite problems. ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: That cannot go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Advani ji, what others have said somewhere else cannot go on record. You know that very well.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Should I name people?

MR. SPEAKER: No. Even you cannot name anyone that way.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: When I say something, I would not say it lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that but the rules do not permit it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I do not want to name anyone. Otherwise his position would become difficult. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a mess.

*Not recorded.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

I had warned the Government at that time itself, that if would be a blunder on the part of the Government if it assured Naxalites that the Government was ready to talk to them without asking them to surrender their arms. Same thing can be said about ULFA, but I will not say anything, because I can not take anybody's name, nor I want to do so. But on the whole I am worried. I do not know what talks were held with Nepali Maoist leader, Prachandji. But I know this much that the proposal to build a red corridor from Pashupati to Tirupati should not get any support. We should be extremely cautious in this regard.

Just now it was said that the biggest problem is that of terrorism. But some days back, the Prime Minister said that the biggest problem is that of naxalism. The Prime Minister had himself said that. After the incident of Mumbai the Prime Minister immediately issued a statement and blamed Pakistan for it. After putting blame on Pakistan, it was contended by the officers of Maharashtra that they were having evidence in respect of the seven train blasts.

[English]

It was like a warlike operation.

[Translation]

Within five minutes serial blasts took place in seven different trains and two hundred people were killed.

[English]

it was really amazing!

[Translation]

After that, it was said that there was evidence which would be handed over to Pakistan, and would be presented before the world. After some days, there was confusion the evidences were either weak or there was something else. But our credibility in the world got affected due to this episode. But it proved to be more effective when Prime Minister gave a statement in Havana that

[English]

Pakistan itself is a victim of aggression and victim of terrorism.

[Translation]

I would like to inform the House that when we were in Government for 6 years, we made a lot of efforts during early years to convince the whole world that cross border terrorism was a very serious problem for us. People used to listen with interest but were not convinced that any of our neighbour was involved in this. The situation changed after 9/11 and they started believing it after 9/11. when our Prime Minister went to address the U.S. Congress at that time, he urged them not to believe that distance from the rest of world protect their country from terrorism. He said that they can't remain unaffected for long. Then one day 9/11 happened and after that they became very receptive and gradually the people of the entire world began accepting that the main reason of dispute between India and Pakistan was actually not Kashmir but terrorism. Pakistan says that Kashmir is biggest problem. If the problem of Kashmir is sorted out then many problems will be solved, the relations will become normal. Now the whole world has come to accept that if there is any major problem then it is cross border terrorism. I feel that after this statement that.

[English]

Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism.

[Translation]

They are not aggressors. They are the aggressed. The people of the world got astonished to hear that. They through that these people were blowing hot and cold in the same breath. I am not saying that there can not be individual victims. Any individual can feel like killing if provoked. It happens here also, but

[English]

That does not make the state a victim of terrorism. The state continue to provoke terrorism.

[Translation]

I do not want to quote Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He has stated that Pakistan has not stopped supporting terrorism. He has said that.

I only know that when NDA was in Government, during all the 6 years we had a two dimensional policy regarding Pakistan.

[*English*]

It was a two-pronged effort.

[*Translation*]

Firstly, honest efforts were made to establish normal relations with Pakistan. It was our policy to bring normalcy and for this purpose our Prime Minister went to Lahore in a bus. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): That's why Kargil happened. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, you will not be able to speak right now. Kindly speak at your own turn.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Prime Minister visited Pakistan riding in a bus and met their Prime Minister in Lahore and Kargil the same time. I really don't know how much the Prime Minister knew about it, but yes it happened. In spite of this, since our policy was to bring normalcy, hence, we invited General Musharraf to India for Agra Summit when he became President. The subject of our concern was terrorism and when he came to Agra he took the stand that there was nothing like terrorism in Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab and in fact this problem did not exist in India. He said that whatever was happening in Jammu-Kashmir was a part of an independence struggle. It was a fight for independence and one not can help if the blood of some innocent persons is shed. Then we said that there would not be any agreement because our policy has two parts, one to make honest attempts to bring normalcy in relations between India and Pakistan and secondly not to make any compromise regarding terrorism. The result of his not being ready to make any compromise regarding terrorism was that no joint statement was issued in Agra and he went back. I know that he left in a bad mood. But I feel that had he not adopted that stubborn attitude, the joint statement which was issued after January, 2004 SAARC conference in Islamabad could have been issued earlier. Prime Minister Vajpayeeji and Pakistan President General Musharraf issued a joint statement against terrorism and in that statement Pakistan stated that Pakistan will not allow its partland, any thereof or land in Pakistan's possession to be used for terrorism. They gave this public statement. Thereafter discussions took place and these discussions were held in different phases. I do not want to go into its details. I would only like to say that this public statement that Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism,

is a kind of certificate. Which they had never ever imagined they would get but our country's Prime Minister gave them such a certificate. I feel that by making such a statement we made our stand weaker against terrorism.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is making wrong statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not affect him. This is a monopoly not of one side. This is happening from both sides. Nobody should do that.

There is a system of requesting for yielding or taking the permission from the chair or raising a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Who thinks about that and who follows that?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Home Minister does a favour to the country by laying the statement given by him in IGP, DGP conference and also the statement given by the DIG, the we will not have this misunderstanding which we have today. As per his view that was aired today.

[*English*]

"The critical infrastructure faces a serious threat from terrorists. Installation of the oil and natural gas sector, defence, communication and IT Sector are vulnerable".

[*Translation*]

He has said this in his statement. Why does he give all his statements to the reporters? He should give it to Parliament also. He should lay DIG's statement in Parliament.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have sent the statement to the hon. Speaker. I have also given him the CD.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that he has handed over his statement to you. I would like to mention all the incidents that have

[Shri L.K. Advani]

taken place recently? A terrorist is caught, be it Afzal or Madani. The political parties come forward to advocate his case, and pass a resolution in the assembly that he should be released on parole. Madani is the person against whom a case is under adjudication regarding the incident that took place in Coimbatore when I was going there to participate in election campaign and in which 54 local people were killed. Things are being said in his defence. I do not want to talk about all the facilities that are being provided to him. It is an altogether different story as to what facilities are being provided to various people in jails in different parts of the country. On the whole it gives a message that we are not concerned about terrorism. We are more worried about vote banks. This message is causing a lot of harm that we are not even worried about our security forces. He has said one more thing.

[English]

According to the reports in the press, namely, that the security forces, who battle against terrorists are subsequently subjected to all kinds of harassment both at the hands of the official authorities as well as non official authorities.

[Translation]

Thereafter several allegations are levelled on them, hence

[English]

The law needs to be properly changed.

[Translation]

They have recommended this.

[English]

Apart from the fact that the law in this regard needs teeth, he also suggested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am sorry, I have to say this thing. He had been the Home Minister. He is quoting the DGPs's conference.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I did not quote anyone else except these two.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Before he became the Home Minister, the media was not allowed to cover it and he is discussing selectively whatever was discussed there, picking a sentence from one speech and then quoting it. This is not really helping the country to provide a proper security. At least, I do not expect this from him.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is a vote bank policy and nothing else.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I was surprised when I read your speech in the press. I would have delivered the speech of that kind because if there is knowledge with the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are not only referring to my speech but also referring to the speech delivered by the highest police officer in the country, and in a selective manner you are picking a word if you cannot pick up a sentence, and you are commenting on it. That kind of Conference was always secret before you became the Home Minister, and you allowed the Press to cover it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Not the deliberations of the Conference, and only the initial speeches, the inaugural speeches were covered, and nothing else. I have not referred to any other speech. I have not referred to the speech of any IGP or DGP. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What will they discuss? You are selectively quoting it on the floor of the House where they cannot come and defend themselves. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that your Ministry contradicted the reference to Indo-US nuclear deal. I saw that also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not expecting the former Home Minister to quote the deliberations of the Conference which was attended by DGs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are very senior Members.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He has made a mistake and just to cover up that he is blaning me. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): What is so secret about it?. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is very senior and competent leader. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advani ji, you have taken 38 minutes.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I am about to conclude.

[*Translation*]

I have dealt with all the remaining issues. I would also like to state that if we do not pay attention towards the increasing crisis of illegal infiltration on the eastern border of the country, then it will cause much damage to our country. There are many factors pertaining to this but there is one factor on which decision has already been taken.

[*English*]

Let us have a national register of citizens. Let it be obligatory for every citizen of the country to carry citizen identity card with them. Let this identity card be a multi-purpose identity card which could serve even the electoral purpose as well as the security purpose.

[*Translation*]

And then we will control this.

[*English*]

During our time, necessary amendments in the law were also made. Legislation was undertaken. The Citizens Act was amended. The Tata Consultancy Services was engaged in this task. They took a long time. They

*Not recorded.

completed their work. Many years ago when the job of identity card was undertaken it was always said:

[*Translation*]

How will it be possible in a country having population of hundred crores to one hundred and twenty five crores. It would be very difficult.

[*English*]

But after the development in information technology, everyone is convinced that it is feasible, it is possible and it will take some time but there should be no half-heartedness about it. I would like to know from the Government, from the Home Minister as to what is the development made in the last two and a half years after this Government came to power because this is an important matter.

Furthermore, I would say that or approach to the Bangladesh Government also should be vigilant and cautious. We have been very particular about Pakistan. Similarly, if there are any training camps there – maybe ISI is also taking its own interest there – our negotiation with Bangladesh should always point out to them what is happening from that side.

Furthermore, I would say that one of the important factors which was achieved by the January, 2004 Joint Statement was that there was an understanding that the infrastructure for terrorism that Pakistan has built up on its side over the years be dismantled. I can say to the best of my knowledge that infrastructure has not been dismantled. Therefore, instead of relating our relations to Pakistan on the basis of one or two individual terrorist incidents, let us relate it to whether or not they are willing to dismantle the infrastructure that they have built up there. This would be my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the House do now adjourn."

15.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, sir, on behalf of the Government, I strongly oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

I have been hearing Advaniji on a number of occasions. I think, all of us today expect from him

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

something new, a sort of light in the House so that the Government could be enlightened if there are any shortcomings. But we are utterly disappointed and frustrated to not find anything new. Every time, when Advani-ji gets up, he suffers from the crisis of confidence on himself. It could be the reflection of his party's internal affairs; I am not going to comment on that.

In every Session, I feel. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They listened to your leader quietly. Kindly listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The House can not function like that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: (Ahmedabad): If you call the name of his party. Then he will realize. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You speak taken you are given opportunity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Mr. Dasmunsi. Nothing will be recorded without my permission.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are in possession of all the records of Parliament as the custodian of the House. In the last occasion, when the NDA was in power, even get one Adjournment Motion, we had to cry and cry and cry and got lost. Thanks for your wisdom, your understanding and your new trend to accommodate all sections of the House in major debates. I feel, almost in every Session, there should be an Adjournment Motion. I myself question as to why on the same issue there should be an Adjournment Motion.

The issue was to discuss the internal security. The Members of the BJP first gave a notice under Rule 193 and then suddenly, making departure from all traditions, they converted it to make an Adjournment Motion. Genuinely, my will wishers in the Media say, and it is very correct also that because every time one has to justify that Advani-ji is the leader of the BJP party, and therefore, without Adjournment Motion, it cannot justify. If it is a discussion under Rule 193, others will speak; but

if it is an Adjournment Motion, the leader will speak. That is why, Advani-ji, for your crisis of confidence, if you have brought it to yourself, I have nothing to say.

But, Sir, I would like to say that Advani-ji confined his whole debate just to Police Conference. It was not against the Government; it was not against what is going on in the country. He was very upset about the DGP Conference. If you carefully see, half of his speech was focused on what the DGP say and what the DGP did not say in the conference. It was his main issue. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying 'DGP' and not the 'BJP'

Sir, Advani-ji has been not only the distinguished Home Minister of our country, he is also one of the tallest leaders of the country to understand the nuances of the Home Minister, nuances of the Police Conference, where each one is asked to give his apprehension. Finally, at the political level, the Minister makes an assessment as to how we should approach. While an IGP speaks or a DGP speaks, he speaks with confidence that his view should be taken as his view dealing the Administration. These are not the views of the Government. The views of the Government are decided in terms of policy. Advani-ji had to conduct such meetings. I am not demanding that those minutes should be tabled on the Table of the House. That would be a very sad end of the day to run the Administration. I would not inspire or encourage even our Home Minister to do so. I hope, he would not table every proceeding of the Police Conference just on the demand of some parties; it would not be proper. Right to information may demand it, but it is not fair.

Sir, I come back to the main issue. If we carefully read out Advani-ji's Motion, it is "Failure of the Government to maintain internal security, in particular and deal with the alarming growth of terrorist menace in the country." Advani-ji very tactfully avoided to refer the document, which has been made public by the Home Ministry. He took this document, I saw it. But he tried to avoid it, not to refer a single page of it. He engaged his whole time on the DGP statement or the statement in the Media, and not the official statement of the Government as to what is inside. If he reads from the inside document, starting from Jammu and Kashmir to all the States, it will be amply justified that the UPA Government has sufficiently controlled the matter, more than Advani-ji's POTA.

That is why, perhaps, he tried to avoid this document. I am not going to the figures. I do not glorify that during Mr. Advani's time, thousand innocents had been killed and during Mr. Shivraj Patil's time only 500 people were killed and that is why there is a big blast. No, I am not saying that. I am only saying the perspective he began with regarding the security scenario of the country.

*Not recorded.

Yes, who does not know that India is a target? Who does not know that India's growth prosperity is a target? Who does not know if there is any biggest target against India that is to destroy the secular fabric of the country? He must still compliment us that in spite of the attempt of all kinds of terrorist activities in the country, in spite of the gravest provocation, if anything we have achieved today — I am not talking of myself — it is that the country socially and politically got united in the secular fabric order. Not a single occasion it had happened.

Why did they shift? Advaniji you know better. Why they sifted from Jammu and Kashmiri to Ayodhya temple? Why they shifted to Banaras Sankat Mochan temple? Why they shifted to Bangalore institute of Science Conference? Why they shifted to big installations where industrial growth and scientific capabilities are there? Why? It is because, their motive is that let us terrorise the whole world by saying do not come to India; do not invest here. Since democratic order is going on, let us make attempt to divide the country in terms of religion.

I am thankful to the media. The media may criticize the Government right and left. The media may criticize the Opposition right and left. But whenever any terrorist onslaught has taken place, either in Bombay blast or in Melegaon or in Banaras, it is the Indian media which largely maintained the order so that the society is not divided. That is the greatest thing of this country, and that is the greatest thing of this country's unity.

I would like to come back to the main issue now. This document will take a lot of time. I will not cite. Advaniji made the beginning with Kargil. We were denied to discuss Kargil even for a day in this House when NDA was in office. We were denied even for a day, even for a Short Duration Discussion, in spite of the Kargil Review Committee's Report was tabled. Remember, the Kargil Review Committee was not a report under the Inquiry Commission Act. The Government had not got the guts at that time to appoint an inquiry commission under the Commission of Inquires Act. It was simply a Review Committee. The Government did not allow to discuss even the Review Committee's Report, and the whole thing emanates from that.

We know the way carelessly the then Government allowed the lapses one after another in the front, to allow the militants to come, the militants to harbour, to allow the militants to plan to capture all parts of the Valley, and days in and out, allowed the shifting of the Pandits

one after another. The Kashmiri Pandits started leaving their home. They started coming to Delhi. It was at that backdrop, they felt one Lahore trip of Prime Minister may settle everything. After the Lahore trip, what was the aftermath, which I do not like to say?

Now how did they handle Kargil? The Kargil Review Committee said it was because of the intelligence failure of the Government and the Government did not act in spite of the required information in the possession of the Government. That is why, Kargil war took place. It was not our Report. It was your Report. How nicely they got the certificate? I would just read it. The Kargil report said that the country's jawans laid their lives because they were not being equipped in time and country faced the disaster for want of response form the Government on the intelligence back up.

After that, hilariously they campaigned throughout the country saying who won the Kargil war. Then, I quote from *call to Honour*. How this Government was feeling so warm in dealing with Kargil? Who gave this certificate? The Kargil Review Committee gave the certificate against the Government. Do you know what type of wonderful certification they got?

I quote from page 299:

"On 4 January 2000, Strobe Talbott wrote me a letter in which he very sincerely shared his views. 'During Kargil, India held fast to the moral high ground throughout the crisis, in the face of enormous provocation and resisted the temptation to take retaliatory steps which would at best have cost India its unprecedented international support.' That was not all. During the Bangkok Asian Regional Forum Meet on 27 July 2000, I met Madeleine Albright, again. Unlike 1998, she greeted me with great warmth, and I got the appropriate hug and kiss on my cheeks. She was graceful and complimentary. 'Jaswant, it was a masterly handling of the Kargil crisis. You did not put a foot wrong.' "

That was your legacy. That was your credential that you felt, whether the countrymen thank you or not, whether your report thanks you or not, if somebody hugs and kisses that you did the right thing at the right moment, that is your certificate. We do not carry this certificate. We carry the certificate of the masses. You see how we deal with it.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

I do not know why Shri Advaniji every time tried to carry some word in his speech which is a louder message. It is the RSS' interpretation – I have been reading the article – that the message must be subtle, very quiet and wider meaning should be carried by the wise person. In the discussion during the last Adjournment Motion on the Doda massacres, Shri Advaniji began to say that Doda is a religious cleansing. You may recall. I cannot quote. It is here with me.

Then in his Sankalp Yatra before the Parliament starts, the main campaign was not Sankalp for the poor people, not Sankalp for hard-hit farmers but the Sankalp or the main slogan of the Sankalp Yatra was—

[Translation]

Hang Afzal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Who prevented his hanging? Shri Advaniji is a most responsible leader. He knows that the sentence was passed by the Supreme Court where the Government cannot go to appeal. He knows that the constitution gives the authority to the family of a citizen to pray for clemency and it goes to be disposed of at the desk of the President of India who cannot be debated in the House, who cannot be questioned at all in the House. But he picked up that "Doba was a religious cleansing, it did not catch my eyes, and did not compensate the damage that I have done by going to Pakistan and talking of Jinnah. So, now, I take a Sankalp that Afzal should be hanged. If I shout more, if that slogan of 'Hang Afzal' is not enough, then, possibly, another kind of polarization will take place." This is the crisis of this country in this security scenario. One should understand our UPA perspective is first take the people into confidence irrespective of the religion. People are the greater defence of any system than the arms together or the law. This is our perspective. Our perspective is in the name of fighting terrorism do not polarize the society. She rightly said polarizing the society in this country, in this democracy cannot achieve anything. How will a mere law help?

Shri Advaniji, can you tell and convince the House? You were the Deputy Prime Minister. POTA was on, in ordinance form. POTA was in function. Could you prevent the attack on Parliament by the suicide squad? ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, POTA as ordinance was there. I say that POTA, not as an Act, as an ordinance, was there. During the period when it was an ordinance, our Parliament was hit. When it was in the form of an Act, the Raghunath temple was hit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: When it was an Act, the Akshardham temple was hit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It does not prevent murders. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not saying that. I am saying that you tried POTA itself and after having tried POTA both in terms of an ordinance and an Act, could you prevent the increase in the terrorists in this country? Every time you had to come and say 'I am strengthening my system'. You are now telling the Government that – you just change the law and the whole problem will be solved.

I know what happened in Gujarat in the name of POTA. The misuse was not only an exception but the misuse was rampant. I know. The whole target of POTA was to show to the whole world that in this country a particular community or a particular religion is doing all these things and book them in the law so that the other side could be polarized. It was never the intention of the Government otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Pune): This has started with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh, do not do that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, it is not. ...*(Interruptions)* I tell you. You are talking of POTA.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? This is not the way to behave in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Advani cited examples of various countries of the world. I do not question his wisdom. USA is USA; Germany is Germany, but India is India. We should deal with our country as our situation demands; we should deal with our country to see how to keep the society together; and we should deal with our country according to our Constitution. We should not deal with our country according to what X, Y or Z does. Our system is quite different. We are a pluralist society, and we cannot afford to accept it there is tension and doubt in any quarter. Therefore, I do not say that no law should be made. Yes, law is there, and we are dealing with it.

I would tell you that come what may the provocation from BJP and come what may the provocation from Shri Advani, our Government is competent to deal it with the existing law. No POTA will be there in the scheme of things, and I want to make it abundantly clear. You experimented with the law, and you failed. Shri Vajpayee said that "I knew that the Parliament could be attacked." Even then you could not handle it. Therefore, this scenario of the country has not suddenly originated when the UPA Government came to power. The UPA carried the burden that you left.

The UPA has thought of a three-pronged approach. Firstly, take the people into confidence irrespective of their religion and community. Secondly, raise the confidence in them to such a height that they consider fighting terrorism as not the job only of police and the Army, but the job of every section and every community of people. Therefore, I found that even before any political party gave a statement – when the Bombay blast took place – it is the religious leader of the Muslim community of Bombay who condemned it aggressively, and denounced it forthright and said that this should not be tolerated. This is what is needed to keep the country together. Only after that comes the law and the judiciary. But you, from the very beginning, see that maybe somebody is there. This apprehension of somebody can be an eye of a police officer, but that apprehension should not be a reflection of a political party. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I know that there is election in Punjab, and there is bound to be aberration. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the time for you to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you later. Nothing has been recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I repeat the popular quote of Shri Advani. It is such a popular quote

of Shri Advani that I cannot avoid my temptation to quote it whenever I take part in a debate. Shri Advani said – when they were in the Government – in the Parliament in his reply:

"The only answer that satisfactorily addresses this query is that Pakistan itself is a product of the indefensible Two-nation Theory, itself a theocratic State with an extremely tenuous tradition of democracy – is unable to reconcile itself with the reality of a secular, democratic, self-confident and steadily progressing India."

Shri Advani himself said it in the House. But there is confusion within Shri Advani that when I visit Pakistan, I should glorify the Two-nation Theory master Jinnah, and when I come back I should try to convince my counterpart that it was for my consumption and for other purpose. I would like to tell you that the Two-nation Theory creator was not merely Jinnah. Shri Advani, you also have tried to find out yourself as to who did it in this country. You are much senior than me. At the end of the day, it was not achieved and Mahatma Gandhi was killed or assassinated.

Today, if you try to give us lecture about all these matters, then it does not yield any results. The Two-nation Theory is over, and that stage is over. But if anybody tries to foment the society – within India – to make two sides of the world, our Government will not tolerate it. Let us make it very clear. Therefore, we shall fight terrorism with all the strength that we have—with the people; with the Government; and by maintaining the true spirit of the Constitution for a secular India. It is like that. During the naxalite days, everyday, a student leader from the Presidency College used to come with a bomb and used to blast the streets. In those incidents, when one police constable and the Vice-Chancellor were dead, we never said that so and so was a Chakraborty or Bandopadhyay or a Hindu and, therefore, the Hindu community was supporting that fellow. Today, when a Muslim person is caught with a bomb, you say that he is from LeT or he is so and so; yes, they are. But you cannot suddenly carry a campaign that because of vote-bank politics, Government 'A' or Government 'B' is appeasing them. No, it is a slanderous campaign. I want to tell you Advaniji that this sort of slanderous campaign is not helping in any way in strengthening our internal security. This sort of slanderous campaign is raising doubts everyday in the minds of the community.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

When Vajpayeeji was the Prime Minister, I referred to what has happened in Gujarat in this House. Harin Panda and all those things, he may not say here; he may talk about Harin Pathak in Ahmedabad. What has happened? Shabana Azmi and I went there. One Muslim *fakir* said: "I have nothing to convey to you and to Rashtrapathiji. All I wish to convey through you is to please allow us to live, and take away our voting rights." What could be more slanderous for the Indian democracy? Have you heard the slogans? You were the Deputy Prime Minister then. Did you go and console them? No, you did not do that.

The menace of terrorism is there in the country, but the Government alone cannot fight it. The Government can fight this menace after taking the people into confidence. We are progressing in that direction inch by inch. When Soniaji visited the temple in Benaras, the head priest of that temple said: "I am so overwhelmed by the fact that both Hindus and Muslims came together to condemn the incident that occurred in Benaras." When Bismillah Khan Sahib was alive, he also said:

[Translation]

No one can divide Hindus and Muslims in Benaras.

[English]

These people are the real strength of India who help in fighting terrorism. Through these sort of messages, we can fight terrorism. Terrorism cannot be fought by laws like POTA.

[Translation]

He may say anything. This is our approach. ...*(Interruptions)*. The approach of U.P.A. is different from him. They create an environment as if they are the sole protector of Lord Rama and of entire Hindu Society, as if our mothers did not put a Tilak on our foreheads on the occasion of our birthday and hymns were not chanted on the occasion of our marriage. As if they only know all these things? It is not so. Vedic hymns were chanted on the occasion of marriage of my father and I also got my head tonsured. It is not only they who does all these things? Do not think so. They should realize that Bismillah Khan's Shehnai is still thought most auspicious on the occasion of a Hindu marriage and they and we, all feel proud to wear Lucknavi chicken Kurta of Wajid Ali Shah

style while attending marriages. This is the culture of India and it is all inclusive.

[English]

Sir, I come back to the issue of Afzal. A campaign has been built from day one about Afzal who is to be hanged. It was said that the Government was not allowing him to be hanged. There are eminent lawyers from both the sides. I want to know whether the hanging order is executed by the Parliament or by the Government. Yes, Advaniji could have said that the attack on Parliament was a serious thing and, therefore, that fellow was to be hanged. Why is it being delayed? On many occasions, you go to Rashtrapathi Bhavan for giving memoranda. Why do you not go one day and enquire as to how much more time is needed.

Rajiv Gandhiji was the Prime Minister of India.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar): When the matter of Shahbano was raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not graceful on your part.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, when the case ended, the conspirators who were involved were given death sentences. All the papers including the clemency petition and other things came to the desk of the Home Ministry in May 2004, when you were the Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Unfortunately, Advaniji, Afzal figures in your mind prominently, but till you left the office after the elections, you forgot that the country's own Prime Minister was killed and his matter should also be referred to the Rashtrapathi Bhavan. You kept in the cold storage till the last day of your office. Look who is talking now! This is why I say, Advaniji, you tried to send a message in a subtle manner that if you shout for Afzal's hanging it would carry conviction with a particular camp. But you would not say a single word on Rajiv Gandhi's assassins about whom papers were lying with you and you conveniently forgot to send them to Rashtrapathi Bhavan

till the last day of your office. We did not demand in the House.

[*Translation*]

Advaniji, tell us when they would be executed? We did not raise this issue and we thought you are dutiful and you would do your duty. But you did not do your duty and said nothing in this regard. But you started raising the demand of giving death sentence to Afzal on the very first day of this session. Can Parliament execute anybody?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Shri Gulam Nabi Azad ji has said this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He did not say this.

[*English*]

These kinds of orchestrations do not help the internal security situation to be strengthened. They can only weaken the internal security of the country.

My appeal to the entire House and especially to the distinguished Leader of the Opposition is that you should give constructive advice to the Home Minister. He will listen to you. Invite him and tell him, 'Shivrajji! I would like to have a cup of tea with you. I forgot to do it then. You kindly do it now. What I did then proved to be wrong. So, you do not do that. You do this.' It is mutual. You are the Leader of the Opposition and you were the Home Minister. We shall try to learn from you. But do not try to give this kind of quotes and speak this jargon which not only not strengthen the internal security but will create a suspicion and doubt among people that a section of the Parliament still doubts the *bona fides* of a section of the people of the country. That would not strengthen the internal security situation. As far as police is concerned, the hon. Minister of Home will reply, he is competent to reply.

I only say that we are fighting terrorism successfully. That is why the investment climate has not gone down. It is going up and up. Every dignitary feels free to come to India. Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up five times to what it was in NDA regime. The international tourists are now in a mood that they shall tour India and go back come what may. That is a plus point for the country. That has happened as a result of the will of the people of this country.

We are not afraid of terrorists. That is why we have achieved all this in such a short span of time. We do not lay tall claims that we have finished terrorism. We do not claim that we have stopped every terrorist. On the one

hand peace process is on with sovereignty and integrity of the country in mind and on the other, the menace of terrorism is being fought in all possible ways taking the people into confidence.

Therefore, lock stock and barrel I oppose this Adjournment Motion which is nothing but an attempt to polarize the society.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion.

We were to debate this Motion under Rule 193 yesterday. Today, we are discussing it under Adjournment Motion. I do not find any difference in these two motions but for the fact that the Government can be censured by the Opposition through the process of Adjournment Motion.

I have seen the documents supplied to us yesterday by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Statistics of terrorists killed, security forces killed, extremists killed, etc., under the NDA regime and the UPA regime are all given in those papers. These figures show that there is a declining trend.

Terrorism activities have declined. We should believe this document. In comparison to the NDA regime, terrorism activities have declined in the UPA region. They are trying to censure this Government but I do not think the security position has deteriorated in the last two or three years.

I believe that terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, North-East, naxalite-affected States, and where communal violence have taken place should be taken as a challenge as it is danger to the internal security and law and order situation of the country. I am from North-East region. I have seen in my constituency two main extremist groups—National Liberation of Tripura and All Tripura Tiger Forces. Both these organizations have been declared as 'unlawful associations' under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. but they are still operating. My experience is that, main parties of this House, both the Ruling and the Opposition, are indulging with these extremist forces. If we see the last three or four elections for the State Assembly of Tripura and Parliament, you would see that they have acted in collaboration with the extremist forces, just to get electoral mileage, nothing more. They should give answer to this.

I firmly believe that we have come to parliament to represent the people of our country. We are the representatives of the individual political parties also. We had been nominated by the political parties. All the political parties have some ideology. I think, those who are the main parties here are not interested to contain these terrorist activities in the country. Otherwise, the position

[Shri Bajju Ban Riyan]

of our country would have improved. If we see the economic position of our country in the county, the economic position of the so-called downtrodden people, people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, the OBCs and the Minorities, we can see that their economic position is very bad. Even after 60 years of independence, those who are residing in these areas are deprived of good roads, no economic activities, no source of income, etc.

If you see as to who were in naxalism and extremism, you would find that most of them are identified as the people from the Scheduled Tribes or from a particular minority community. But most of them are from the Scheduled Tribes. Naxalism menace is there in Andhra Pradesh, some parts of Maharashtra, some parts of BJP – ruled Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and so on. If we see these areas where the naxalite activities are strong and active, you would find that there is no economic activity in those areas.

There are no roads; there are no industries and there are no factories. Unemployment is growing among them. So, Sir, through you, I would request that we, the political parties, should campaign against terrorism, terrorist groups, naxalite groups, etc. ideologically. Otherwise, having only police force or paramilitary force or sophisticated arms, etc. will not solve the problem. We may have to do it, just to fight them, but those misguided people helping the terrorist groups or naxalite groups should be made to understand that we cannot prosper in this way, and that we should work together and we should try to develop our country.

We have many development activities throughout the country. We have many programmes organized in the States like the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and others; they should be fully utilized so that area can be developed for the overall development of the country as a whole.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of internal Security has been discussed in almost all the sessions of both the Houses. Today, when Advaniji was speaking in support of his adjournment motion, I was finding out the reasons that forced him to have discussion on this issue through an adjournment motion. Generally, he repeated the same things that he had been saying for the last two and half years. He revealed only one thing that he has written a memoir on the historical visit of General Parvez Musharraf to Agara. His book is in both Hindi and English versions. I have read Hindi version of 'Agnipath'. In it he has stated that Shri Vajpayee Ji and Musharraf Sahab had agreed on some points for improving Indo-Pak relations but due to the pressure put by a particular person the joint declaration could not be reached and made public. Today, Shri Advaniji revealed

that he was the person towards whom Musharraf Sahab has indicated. Today, a document was published by the Ministry of Home Affairs that was circulated to the Members for their perusal. I wanted some response from Advaniji on the errors in the document but he said nothing on it. He only referred to that and closed the matter. But, it is, really, true that an atmosphere of panic of terrorism was created among the common men, the intellectuals and sensible persons on that day when the statement referring to the Minister for Home Affairs was published on the front page of each newspaper of India, that news item carried a very serious threat perception that the atomic centre, the power centre and the research centres of the country were on the target of terrorists from the day Indo-U.S. atomic treaty was signed. So this critical news was published in the newspapers of India but what steps the Government is taking to prevent this. I think the Minister of Home Affairs may have had some intention in stating this in that meeting. We should ponder over how to find out the ways to check it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I said this in the context of the statement given by Shri Advaniji. When this was reported in media, it was refuted the very next day. I would like to make it clear at this time that I am not in possession of any such statement that refers to the increased possibility of attack due to Indo American treaty. However, I have sent a copy of that C.D. to the Hon'ble Speaker and he may return it today or tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): It can be ...

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving clarification. He has yielded to the Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you are making that kind of a statement, you may move a breach of privilege and I will reply to it. You are making a very-very tall statement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not take notice of that. That is not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is stooping too low. I have not made that kind of statement. If everybody stands up and repeats the same thing, we are circulating a wrong statement, which is not going to help us to concentrate our attention on policies and programmes which we should adopt in order to deal with this kind of matter. It will just deviate our attention from the main point to the issues which are not real, not based on facts and which are not going to help us. That is the only thing that I would like to say. Every Member gets up and says this. Am I expected to say that I have not made this statement?

*Not recorded.

15.43

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You may contradict it but that was the subject of our initial notice. We gave our Adjournment Motion notice on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You authenticate it and give it and then face the consequences also. I know how to deal with it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please address to the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every sitting of the House has its own decorum. Now, as the news has been published in the newspapers and hon. Minister of Home Affairs is refuting it then we should take his statement in that perspective. But we wanted to discuss this issue in a different way that such things which are absolutely misleading and create an atmosphere of fear in the country, have been publicized by the media widely. Has media of this country become so irresponsible that they publicize such information so widely which is totally unauthenticated and unofficial? This is not a simple case. What are the views of the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard? I think that an internal discussion on this issue must take place in such a situation. What should be the role of media in this country on the issue of internal security is required to be debated because we cannot allow things to happen in this uncontrolled way on the pretext of freedom of press which may pose a threat to our internal security. I want to present these things in a different way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in all our neighbouring countries, terrorist organizations are sprouting up against us. This is a welcome news for us that the Maoist organizations active in Nepal now want to play active role in the democratic process. They have decided to surrender their arms and ammunitions, abjure violence and play an active role in the mainstream democratic process as is being practised in India. Such news is being published in newspapers that they will be a party in the real democracy. This is a good indication for India's internal security. We must think over it that the way chosen by the Maoists of Nepal is going to make an impact over the naxalites active in India because they were not only getting arms from them but also ideological support from them. We will have to see the impact of such changes on these naxal outfits. Because as per the documents that we have in our hand the naxalite activities and incidents have reduced in all naxalite affected States except Chhattisgarh.

The State Government had evolved an action plan in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs for tackling the naxalites in Chhattisgarh. As recorded in the documents, it has been found that after the implementation of the action plan there has been steep rise in the killing of the innocent people and security personnel. I want to submit that when such experiments are done by the Government then they must be subjected to periodic revision also. I think that it is not a wise step to continue with an experiment which has failed to tackle a situation. So, wise people always go on changing their strategy to fight with their opponents. I feel that in the backdrop of the changed environment in Nepal it is high time to change our approach towards the naxal outfits active in India. The Government of India has said and we have also expressed that until they lay down their arms no talks will take place with them. In Andhra Pradesh talks with them were initiated but somehow it failed due to some reasons. But, now I think that another opportunity has come before us for holding talks with them. In this matter if we begin talks with them without any prejudices then it can yield some concrete results.

As far as State sponsored terrorism is concerned some decline has been noticed in it. It has happened because we have fenced our borders falling with Bangladesh and Pakistan at large scale. There is about 750 kilometers of such land near Meghalaya where fencing has not been done and around 400 to 500 kilometers long borders falling with Pakistan could neither be fenced nor any flood light could be installed there. I would like to say to the Minister of Home Affairs that this should be completed earliest. Recently in October the Prime Minister has also given a statement that he wants to eliminate State sponsored terrorism with the cooperation of Pakistan. But in 2004 the Government of Pakistan had promised to eliminate all terrorist camps operating from its soil. Our Prime Minister has rightly said that until Pakistan adheres to its promise made in the year 2004 we will not keep any relations with them. I think that it is a statement reflecting the stand of India and Government of India should adhere to it. But this document says that still infiltration is taking place from Pakistan despite fencing, there is no decline in it rather it is increasing continuously. There is a need to think over it that in spite of increase in infiltration from Pakistan why our approach towards Pakistan on the issue of terrorism has become liberal. The Government of India must deliberate over it again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India should strictly adhere to the statement given by the Prime Minister of India on 16th October, 2006 that until Pakistan eliminates all terrorist camps operating from its soil officially the Government of India will not keep and relation with it. I urge that the Government of India should stick to its stand taken in this regard.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

Sir, recently a few days ago an incident happened in Malegaon. Also two month ago series of bomb blasts took place in Mumbai but still Mumbai police is clueless and could not find out who were responsible for it. Mumbai police changes its statement daily. After repeatedly changing statement of the Mumbai Police I strongly condemn the attitude of the Mumbai Police towards a particular community. Hon. Lal Krishan Advani was saying that laws are not strict enough to tackle it. I would like to tell him that the Government of Maharashtra has enacted a very strict law as desired by him and is implementing it. This law is more strict than POTA and TADA. The result of it is that in all over Maharashtra the statistics indicate that more than 5 thousand people of a particular community have been detained in the jail without any charge. This is causing resentment in a particular community.

Sir, a few days ago a person of our State landed at Mumbai airport. Dadar Police arrested him and treated him inhumanly for more than 24 hours. He told them that he is not a terrorist. My family has played an active role in the national movement and one of my own brother is a Member of Rajya Sabha. What sign of being a terrorist you are finding in me? Then the Dadar Police of Maharashtra said that you wear a round cap and round pyjama like terrorists. This is a very sad thing. I would like to say to the Minister of Home Affairs in this regard that if you will not be cautious then as our friend and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was mentioning that if we start calling people terrorist of a particular religion then I think it will virtually be impossible to eliminate terrorism from the society. Any person of a particular community may be terrorist but the whole community cannot be labelled as terrorist. If such impressions have been formed by the Maharashtra Police because of its own thinking and they behave in such a way then I do not think it proper. If this happens, then the truth towards which they were pointing may prove right.

Sir, in this region of South East Asia a new change is taking place. I thought that the terrorism sponsored by our neighbouring countries in India found its largest hub in Afghanistan. Keeping this fact in view we leave no stone unturned to provide all the possible assistance to Afghanistan for development work and establishment of democratic form of governance there. What is being reported by the international media is that Taliban has regrouped itself in accordance with its suitability and it possesses state of the art weapons. The weapons

possessed by it are as much sophisticated as that of the army. As per the estimate of FBI the terrorist outfits have to incur from 3 to 5 lakh US dollars to carry out a terrorist attack like 9/11. As per the figure of Lashkar-e-Taiba itself, the assets possessed by it amount to 300 crore dollar. Wherefrom are these terrorist outfits receiving such a large amount? India is also cooperating in the international campaign against terrorism. My request is that India should make efforts to ensure that the flow of arms to such organisation should not come from some of the international organisations which basically operate with the external funding. Such an initiative should be taken by India. I would like to say that illiteracy, backwardness and the lack of source of income are the three major reasons of all the problems, whether it is terrorism, naxalism or extremism. If India wants to tackle all these problems, it will have to take all these things into account, only then can India succeed in eliminating terrorism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated in its document that it wants to modernize paramilitary forces. It wants to strengthen the intelligence agencies of States' police. There is one police constable on every 750 persons and that's why they found themselves unable to tackle the internal law and order problems. The statements of Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and DG's are published in the newspapers but why could not the information regarding terrorist outfits, naxalite groups and extremist groups reach the Government of India and State Government? We are required to brood over all these things. Our first priority should be how to strengthen and modernize our intelligence agencies so that prior information of an incident to be carried out may be received. The cases of perpetrators of terrorist activities should be disposed of forthwith and they should be brought to book, so that trepidation of administrative machinery, may be created in the minds of anti-social elements.

Opposing the adjournment motion, with these few words I conclude my speech.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the adjournment on internal security is before the House. With what purpose has hon. Leader of Opposition brought this adjournment motion? I think, he is not speaking of the failure of UPA Government but of his own regime whether it is the issue of POTA, TADA or the matters of Kashmiri Pandits. What was the purpose of the Leader of Opposition? He has defeated the basic purpose of bringing adjournment motion

in his own speech. I have listened to his speech very attentively. He did not mention about the incident of Red Fort nor of Akshardham nor of terrorists attack on Parliament. He took only the portion of vote bank. Only the vote bank is being talked about. Who is laying the vote bank politics? None of the democratic countries has witnessed a procession organized for getting someone hanged. Awarding death sentence is the job of the court and only the person who has been sentenced to death is authorized to appeal to HE Mr. President of India against the sentence. Such is the provision in the criminal jurisprudence. I have never heard about the incidents of organizing procession for getting someone hanged in any of the democratic countries. It is an astonishing incident. India is the largest democracy. Who is playing the vote bank politics on the execution of Afzal? Who wants to divide this country? Who tries to communalise the situation is also a crime. A circumstance was created in which Afzal was sentenced. It is also a crime to cash on a situation and to exploit the sentiments of a particular community.

16.00 hrs.

Today, before discussing the issue of internal security, the definition of crime is required to be changed. That's why I want to say we will not be in a position to do justice to this issue before understanding the hidden mentality of raising this issue. We need to pay attention to it. Otherwise, justice cannot be done to it. Justice cannot be done to debates on the issue of internal security as there is no religion, no caste and no community of terrorists. Their only aim is to spread violence by triggering the terrorist, criminal and other activities, so today we have to adopt an appropriate view about terrorism. Who went to Kandhar to set the persons free and who jeopardized our internal security. This has become a million dollars question for us as to who went to Kabul and set the terrorists free. He was not an ordinary person who escorted the notorious terrorist as guest to the native land to set him free. Such incident had never happened earlier.

During fifty eight years of independence no government would have acted so impudently. We are discussing terrorism and internal security. I know who went to Kandhar, who was that Minister but I do not want to mention his name. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Today he is not the Members of this House. At that time also, I opposed this incident. You know that I opposed each and every thing in this respect. I have never compromised with any principle and that may be seen in the record of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Yadav, please address the chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please see the proceedings of the House. You are new in this House and you do not know about the proceedings of the House. Please go through the proceeding of year 2000 and see what I have said. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Shri D.P. Yadav's speed nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am addressing only to you but it will have to take into account that the people of the country never fought with each other. This is the first fundamentalist party which has caused fight among people of the country. There should be no fight in the name of community. We have to fight with terrorists sponsored by external forces. Internal security can never be strengthened if the people of the country fight with each other. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): This is wrong, such things are not happening in this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is happening. After all why should an issue be raised. You can see their activity, you are seeing it here in the House. What can be more than this that I am speaking with your

*Not recorded.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

permission, this is their double standard. They are double standard people, their conduct, character and face changes within no time. They change whenever tide is on their side. It must have been noticed initially, as was said that it is propriety right of the Prime Minister to include someone into his Cabinet but that thing has been twisted here. They have changed the direction of the issue and have created a separate issue for discussion. They argue from any side, whichever suits them. That is why terrorism in the country today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lajuji, leader of your party is speaking.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, terrorism is not the only problem, in fact naxalism, increasing terrorist violence in North Eastern States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak when your turn comes.

[English]

Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Your job is to create rumour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We are not allowing you to speak. How would you be allowed, I am not yielding as to how you are giving a chance to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

[Translation]

Nothing is going on record. Lajuji's remarks would also not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, terrorism is not the only problem. I was telling, I was speaking on the issue and they keep interrupting. Increasing problem of Naxalism and terrorist violence in North-Eastern States is like a challenge. We are also facing this problem. To incite communalism and riots, to invoke conflict between two communities, to end brotherhood, to destroy peace also jeopardizes internal security. There is no fear of international security from outside enemy. There is danger to internal security from fundamentalists powers. Only for this purpose, so many security forces, STF and other forces are deployed. Internal security is a challenge for us today. Whether it is Kashmir or Assam, Nagaland or Manipur, there are about eight to ten states where there is a lot of terrorism. I think there are a dozen of states affected with this kind of naxalism and internal security is challenged there. Thereby soldiers of our army and security forces and innocent people are killed. I think that naxalism or extremism is there to such a large extent in these States it has become challenge for us. Economical disparity and social exploitation are the main reasons for this. I would like to say that there should be a debate on its main reason. There is economic disparity to a large extent because some people live luxuriously and their number is two to five percent and the remaining people are hardly able to meet their both ends. The economic disparity and the disparity of economy have risen so much that people take A.K. 47 in their hands. I look upon it in view of development. Until the disparity of economy is removed permanent solution of internal security cannot be made. That's why I am saying about social atrocity and those people who are responsible for it. The entire game of social atrocities, discrimination between each other, dividing people into lower and higher category, division of country into castes and communities is played for the sake of power and politics. ...*(Interruptions)* If we have to strengthen internal security, our Government and the people of our country will have to think about it. The people will have to think how to safeguard the internal security? To maintain internal security is not the duty of Army and police today. This is our responsibility and the responsibility of all people. As long as we do politics in the name of temple-mosque, caste, religion, territory, it is natural that our people will fight with each other, sense of revenge will take fire and it will again endanger our internal security. So BJP should stop making vote bank in the name of internal security. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

Today we need to establish strong unity in the country. We all need to establish strong national unity in the country. The stronger communal harmony in the country the more we shall be able to overcome terrorism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is one more member of your party who wants to speak. Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, I would conclude soon. I want to put forth some basic facts. Our country cannot be made weak by outside attack. I want to say about it. Country will be weakened from the attack inside, whether by riot, conflict or communal tension. If fraternity is weakened, if society is attacked, the country will be weakened. Internal security will become weak. The stronger the communal harmony, the better way we shall be able to give befitting answer to the enemy countries and the terrorist activities across the border will be defeated. We can defeat cross border terrorism provided we make communal harmony and national unity strong in the country. Internal security is an issue connected with national security. Today where are attacks made, when is our internal security in danger? It is when our historical heritage is attacked. No one has right to demolish our historical monuments whether it is Parliament House, Akshardham, Red Fort, Taj Mahal of Agra or Babri Masjid of Ayodhya. No one has right to destroy history by way of Hajrat Bal Dargah, or Charare Shariff. ...(*Interruptions*)

If we demolish one, another will automatically fall down and this will endanger our internal security. This is historical heritage of our country. This is glory of our country. None should be given any right in any circumstances to destroy this history and cultural heritage. For this, a law has been enacted. The Minister of Home Affairs was just saying that no historical building will be destroyed after freedom. But the members who were chargesheeted for three and six years were crying bitterly. Whether demolishing a mosque is not a crime? They have been charge sheeted by CBI. Whether it is not a crime? I do not want to name the people, but I must say that it comes in the category of crime. Please do not favour crime. One thousand people died because of this. Here Mr. Shibu Soren is accused of a murder of a person. ...(*Interruptions*) They should be punished according to law.

In the month of July, there occurred incidents of bomb blast in Mumbai. Like that at other places many barbaric incidents and terrorist activities took place. The

country should deal with the fanatic and communal forces severely. There is no place for violence in our democratic system. We should take steps with full earnestness to defeat the intentions of such destructive forces. Combined reserve forces of States Intelligence Bureau or other intelligence agencies should be strengthened and modernized at the earliest and firm steps should be taken to check such incidents.

I strongly oppose their motion.

[*English*]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperambudur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Adjournment Motion.

At the very outset, I would like to say that the BJP has no moral right to move this Adjournment Motion. Terrorism was at the peak when BJP was in power. I will not say that there are no terrorist incidents when the UPA Government is in power. But while comparing the BJP Government, terrorist incidents are very less and the internal security of this country is very safe under the UPA Government headed by our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

This Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition is to maintain the vote bank of Hindus. The BJP always wants Hindu-Muslim Division to secure the Hindu votes. When the BJP Government was there, we could not forget the fact that Maulana Masood Azhar was handed over to the terrorists in Kabul who then moved on to Islamabad. One of the root causes of creating so much of terrorism in this country is due to Maulana Masood Azhar.

Secondly, in the case of Afzal, who is convicted to death sentence, as a convict, he has got all the rights to file a mercy petition before the hon. President. In due course, it will be decided by the hon. President.

I want to remind the BJP Members that when the BJP Government was in power, there were 20 more mercy petitions pending before the hon. President. But the BJP is knowingly raising the issue of Afzal on the floor of the House saying that Afzal should be hanged immediately. Why? I say that the BJP wants to send a signal to the Hindus for vote bank politics. The BJP is

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

trying to fish in troubled waters to promote Hindu-Muslim divide. We cannot forget the Gujarat riots, the Godhra train incident and the attack on Parliament. To control the terrorist activities, the BJP had brought forward a special Act called the POTA. I ask the Members this question. Were they able to control terrorism and maintain internal security through the POTA? But, instead of controlling terrorism and maintaining internal security, they victimized their political opponents. The POTA was used to victimize their political opponents.

Sir, the BJP Government failed on the internal security front when they were in power. They failed to maintain law and order through the special Act like POTA. That is why they failed to come back to power in 2004. So, I will request my hon. friends of the BJP not to bring the Adjournment Motions often. Let them keep quiet till 2009. Let the elections come. We will face it and with the support of the people we will face the challenges before this country.

Therefore, with these few words, I oppose this Adjournment Motion on behalf of DMK.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened the speech of Advaniji very attentively. I also listened the Government's stand in this regard. We used to say that our basic need is food, clothing and shelter. Now I feel that they have become secondary in present time as now the prime question is how to save our life. If we are able to save our life then only we will live in house, take food and wear clothes. It means that security problem has become very serious.

I listened Dasmunsiji's speech attentively. That is only a political speech. That speech only detailed about the work done or not done by Advaniji during his tenure. There was no mention of Afzal case. His speech has no mention of legal strategy diplomatic strategy, and preventive measures relating to security. It is just a political speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the House wants to curb terrorism and everybody says so then, it's fine. Everybody wants end of terrorism but then why issue is being politicized. If we all want that there should be an iron hand.

[English]

There should be no mercy. Why should there be mercy? Why should it be politicized?

[Translation]

What is the reality? I will conclude within 3-4 minutes. I want to know the reality. I understand that the Government's stand is not correct. It is a contradictory and conflicted stand. If we want to treat terrorism as a special problem, then why did they repeal special POTA law enforced by NDA Government? That law had special courts, special decisions and special provisions. I simply ask the Government that if we want to treat terrorism as a special problem, then why this special Act was repealed? On one hand hon'ble Prime Minister says

[English]

There is no need for any special law.

[Translation]

Our existing law is self sufficient enough to teach a lesson to the criminal. This is Prime Minister's statement and not mine. I would request hon'ble, Prime Minister that if his stand is that the present law is sufficient, then the case that has been concluded, its decision is yet to be implemented. Our law is competent enough to deal with pending cases. That is another issue, but in this case, the judgement has been given and its implementation is to be done, if it is pending, then how can we talk about judgement?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is said that the matter relating to Afzal's mercy appeal has been referred to the President. I am not at all agree with this view. Hence we can not speak anything in this case. This is not true. You please let me know what role cabinet has played in this matter? What role you have played in the cabinet? What is the opinion of the Congress Party in respect of Afzal's matter? You, please, tell us as to what is the view point and what is the angle of UPA Government in this case? You make your stand clear as to whether he deserves death sentence or not? You should have an angle is this matter, but you are not ready to speak even a single word on this matter. Why is this indecisiveness on your part? My next question is that how long the President can keep a matter pending with him? Can he keep it pending till the end of his tenure? With a view to defer the hanging?

[English]

What is the legal provision? Please tell us.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not disturb. Please sit down.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, I want to say whether we can discuss in this House an issue involving his excellency, the President? Hon. Members is saying that the President should be asked to. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not saying this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): We are not speaking against the President. We are speaking against the Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it has not been said against the President. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people are continuously speaking the same things. Please exclude it from Proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Subodh Mohite.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no complaints against his Excellency, the President and it will never be. My point is that what is the legal provision in this regard, what is the role of the Government, what is the decision of the Cabinet and what is the decision of the party, it should be made clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Goyal, you please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement of hon'ble Prime Minister is that

[English]

The present law is all right. There is no need for any other law, the present law is all right. Then, why is there a delay?. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Then, why is there a delay in this case? If they can go to the President to get the position explained in the matter of officers of Profit then why can't they go to him to get the position clear in the matter of Afzal?. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record, except the submission by Shri Subodh Mohite.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever I am speaking here, I am having all the necessary documents to substantiate the same. If anybody is interested, I can give it to him. Hon. Home Minister is sitting here. I respect him a lot. There was a time when everyone wanted and all of us had made-up our mind to declare Pakistan a terrorist-nation at the global level. But what is the situation today? Today there is terrorism in India and there is terrorism in Pakistan also and this Government is to be blamed for the same.

[English]

Let us have a common strategy and then you joined hands with Pakistan.

[Translation]

Once we used to call Pakistan a state which sponsors terrorism but today we are saying that India and Pakistan both are facing the problem of terrorism, they are also having this problem in Pakistan like we have in India. It means that terrorism is coming from any third place. Recently a Secretary level talks were held with Pakistan. My question to hon. Home Minister is that what demands

*Not recorded.

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

you raised during the said Secretary level talks? What evidences you have given to Pakistan about Mumbai Bomb Blast? What role Pakistan played in all the episodes and what action Pakistan has taken on all of our demands?

I want to mention in short that we are falling into trap of Pakistan which was called a terrorist state one day and today we are changing our view point towards it.

Pakistan has been given clean chit, whether it is incident of Mumbai bomb blast of 1993. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards three things. I have got a press clipping with me. Some time back when Advaniji was speaking in the House, the Minister of Home Affairs told him not to quote press clippings. Advaniji had quoted from a press clipping appeared eight days back.

[English]

This is the statement of IGP or DGP or whosoever it may be.

[Translation]

He did not ask him that if he wanted to contradict him. Why did he not do so one day earlier? I will not go into that. The things which I am quoting.

[English]

These are the Press clippings of eminent papers.

[Translation]

I do not know whether it is true or not. If it is true then it is all right, if not true why have you not taken any action. this question also comes to fore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are present here. You represent a community, it is surprising the way Prime Minister made a statement in the conference of Chief Ministers

[English]

"Do not cut out Muslims"

[Translation]

I would like to read out a line from that speech. It has been said their:-

[English]

"Fundamental human rights of the citizen, particularly of the minority community should be of core concern."

This was the Press clipping of *The Hindustan Times* dated 6th September.

[Translation]

I want to say that Prime Minister makes a statement that minority and Muslim community are fundamental concern. What does it mean, the straight meaning is that

[English]

fundamental right of the other community is of less importance. This is the straight meaning. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

This is the straight meaning. The Prime Minister of the country can make such a statement against majority. His statement is against the emotions of majority, that simply means he wants to stifle their voices and you accuse us of being against minorities.

I have another press clipping with me. I am making my point clear. This is from 'Time of India' this clipping is more interesting. It has been stated there,

[English]

Muslims would not be harassed.

[Translation]

I do not know what instructions Prime Minister can give to a police officer. But a statement has been made in which it has been stated that

[English]

fifteen years ago. Sikhs have been seen with suspicion.

[Translation]

Look, this is a very serious matter. It means fifteen years ago Sikhs were also looked upon with suspicion.

That means a wrong outlook was adopted towards them. I want to ask the Prime Minister that you say 15 years ago the demand of Khalistan, attack on Golden Temple and assassination of Indira Gandhi were the incidents which government the approach of the country towards Sikhs, the then view point of the country was wrong, will he clarify that? I want to say that if Sikhs were taken with wrong point of view at that point of time, it was not correct, it should not have happened. I will not go into all that. But you please tell me if in this attack

[English]

majority of the people are from one community,

[Translation]

then should we not take that community with such point of view.

A demand have made to Shivraj Patil Saheb in the other House that list of all terrorists who have been identified and located should be declared. My demand is not that. I demand that you not only declare that but display their names and photographs in every villages and Police Stations. You have to take help from every agency to nab the terrorists, the perpetrators. If you do not take such stand and think that this will lead a division in society, it is not correct, it is a very serious matter.

I want to say one last thing more. One statement of Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs is there which is very interesting. They said that the country is facing a threat, be alert. They have said that our religious places are under threat. Thereafter the said places of economic importance, nuclear installations are also under threat, people are also under threat. Do you want to absolve yourself of responsibility by giving such statement? What is your responsibility? Your responsibility rests upon your preparedness. Instead of disclosing now your preparedness you are saying there is danger, be aware. Later on you will say we have warned you in advance. This issue is more serious than that, this is what I feel.

Last thing I would like to say that you are sponsoring this angle of minority and majority. I quoted two examples of hon'ble Prime Minister. Hon'ble Dasmunsi had made his first point about POTA and second about expediting the matter with the President and he said that we brought POTA, ordinance about which was in existence. Despite that the Parliament was attacked. This is ridiculous. If a

leader of his stature says such thing then it is ridiculous because no law can prevent an external attack. The law of the land is not for checking attack but about handing out punishment.

[English]

Law of the land is to give punishment and not to prevent an attack. This is the law of the land.

[Translation]

Ordinance was in existence, so this attack should not have happened, I can not digest this logic. If some one explode a bomb in an aeroplane tomorrow and you say that your law has not stopped him. The law is not there to stop him, law is there to set example before the world by giving punishment to local accomplices of terrorists. Therefore, this thing can not be justified.

Second thing he mentioned in his speech that why do not you expedite the matter with His Excellency President. I urge upon you that we will take up this matter but as a government you have a role to play, you should expedite this matter as the whole nation is waiting with eagerness for hanging of Afzal.

The police officers who have done commendable job should be rewarded. RSS headquarters is located at Nagpur. The officers who have done good job should be commended. I praise the Police Commissioner of Nagpur who has thwarted such a major terrorist attack. His name is SPS Yadav. He should be recommended by the Parliament for Police award.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while participating in the debate on this Adjournment Motion, I charge this Government for its major failure in maintaining law and order; it has failed in dealing with internal security.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please maintain silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have to hold any meeting kindly do it outside.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I do not want to speak on the details of the terrorist attacks and other related matters, which the country has witnessed in the recent past. But I would like to apprise the House of the extent, the country has suffered so far.

About 19,000 civilians and security personnel have been killed by the terrorists in India since 1994. The country has lost over 75,000 of its citizens both civilian and security personnel in the last two decades, to terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Deputy speaker Sir, Home Minister is not present here, State Minister is also not here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cabinet Minister is sitting here.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the critics say that we are not reacting to the loss of people because we have many; we only react to the loss of territory. This impression of the outsiders is very much painful and insulting. Perhaps the long struggle against terrorism has made us weary and fatalistic. Now, the internal security problems in the country are much more grave and alarming.

The hon. Prime Minister has rightly stressed on greater alertness to combat the threat of terrorism, staring at the face of the country. It is timely in the context of recent development in the country.

Sir, virtually he has declared war on terror. But nobody quite believes that our Prime Minister, with all his good intention, has the power and clout to bring about any significant change.

I would like to know this from the hon. Home Minister that in the month of August, security experts of the country came together on one platform—it must have been brought to the notice of the Government—to express their worry over the deteriorating internal security situation and said: “There was a need to whip up a level of concern about, whether we are going in the right

direction?” So, this is the statement of the experts of the country. They are security experts. So, the Government should respond to this. This is their statement.

They also opined that there was continuous escalation of security problem. The 1st Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs had stated that more than one-third of the country was afflicted with some kind of internal disturbances and that 165 districts in 14 States were affected by Maoist activities. The situation is worse now, but there is no permanent strategy for remedy and defence.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister that in the conclave of Chief Ministers of Internal Security, held on 5th September, the centre had admitted that cross-border terrorism has spread to the hinterland, and infiltration, in comparison to the same period last year, has trebled. It has also pointed to the rise in grenade attacks in Kashmir, increase in the number of casualties in Naxalite violence and no respite in insurgency in the North-East.

The country is shocked with all the sensational news which has been disclosed recently by the highest authority of the country, mostly by the Home Minister, hon. Prime Minister and Rashtrapati.

The sensational disclosure has come from the hon. Home Minister as he has sensitized the country's police and intelligence brass, to conspiracy by terrorist groups operating from Pakistan, to target oil and gas installations, IT sector, nuclear installations, communication networks and defence installations.

Mr. M.K. Narayanan, the National Advisor, has already disclosed about the targets of nuclear plants by the terrorists. In the recent past, Mr. M.K. Narayanan, as also the hon. Home Minister have pointed to the vulnerability of the multi-purpose projects like the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and other infrastructure installations.

There are also plans by the terrorists to occupy some uninhabited islands and use them as bases for launching operations on the Indian coast. This has been told by the hon. Home Minister. So, I would like to know whether this statement is correct or not. If it is correct, what action the Government is taking to arrest and just to neutralize all these threats? Regarding IB chief's remarks, already, the Home Minister has refuted this. Since I have

given my Adjournment Motion, I have also mentioned this thing in the notice, hence I would like to draw the attention of hon. Home Minister again.

The IB Chief, Mr. Narasimhan had argued for a special law with the changed scenario since the legal framework was not adequate, in the presence of the Prime Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: By making this statement, you are exposing yourself to the Motion of Breach of Privilege.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: That is all right. This has already been published in all the national newspapers. I admit. I am accepting your statement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You depend on national newspapers and we will depend on breach of privilege.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am accepting your statement. This is the convention of the House. But I must bring to the notice of the House how it has come out in all the national media the Government should clarify this. This is between the Government and the media.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not responsible. I am not writing in the media. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Then, will we disbelieve the media? Are you saying so?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We believe the media where it is true and where it is not true, we bring it to your notice.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is not in any one newspaper. It has come out in all the national media. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Somebody said this, said that. You make your own point. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please do not disturb in the middle of speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHIR BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Then, I would also like to know one thing from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. If it is not a fact, then, let us know, let us also study the statement, the Address of the hon. Prime Minister in that same meeting. What did he say, at the Seminar on law, terrorism and development? The hon. Prime Minister was in complete agreement with the IB on the threat posed by different forms of terrorism. He told: "Having large financial and material resources at their disposal, the terrorist groups are able to use modern communication systems and state-of-the-art technology". He has also said in the same Seminar of the Police Chiefs that in the country, the present law is sufficient enough to manage the terrorists. If it is not a fact that somebody has not told in that Seminar, then how did it prompt him to make this statement? How had he made this Statement? Whom did he refer to? Why was it necessary to be referred to? Naturally, somebody had told in that meeting that a special law was necessary to tackle terrorism and that was why the hon. Prime Minister had been compelled to make his statement in his Address that a special law was not necessary and the present law was sufficient to tackle terrorism.

These terrorists have also become more sophisticated and better networked any highly motivated in carrying out their notorious designs. Respected Rashtrapatiji has also observed and has proposed setting up a dedicated police force equipped with sophisticated gadgetry to fight low-intensity warfare, to combat terrorism or war-like situation. Therefore, Rashtrapatiji has rightly advised the Government that there is a warlike situation and our police force is to be equipped with gadgetry to face this low type of warlike situation. He has also said and referred to the legal system. He stated that the legal reforms like witness protection, concealing the identity of the witnesses, compounding of offences and suitable protection, concealing the identity of the witnesses, compounding of offences and suitable protection to judges would go a long way in reducing the stress on the criminal justice system. He has also advised that there is some lacuna in the criminal system. That is why we must also see how to redress this thing, how the criminals are to be booked and how they will be punished and how the criminal system is to be changed. That is also the advice of the respected Rashtrapatiji. We must honour it. That is why a special law like thing is required as was suggested by IB Chief or anybody who were suggesting this.

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

Sir, we all know that this Government is suffering from serious dilemma and confusion. I charge, that they are trying to engage in a political strategy. But hopelessly it does not have the power to execute it. They are also engaging in a security strategy; but helplessly they cannot implement it for fear of political consequences.

These are the reasons for which this Government has miserably failed to combat terrorism in the last two-and-a-half years. There was a sharp fall in the number of terrorist modules busted. In most of the cases it is observed that the terror is practiced in local recruits, but unfortunately the hon. Prime Minister won't hear it from his security advisers.

It also observed that the Government is not taking serious steps to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism. The proxy war of Islamabad is still continuing. Pakistani leadership has been aiding and abetting the forces behind terrorist activities in our country. As usual, nearly 62 terrorist training camps are functioning across the border in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). The infiltration from the northern part of Pakistan is also on the rise with about 200 cases having been reported in the last nine months. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the immigrants from the North-East and insurgent are continuing to find safe sanctuaries in Bangladesh and Myanmar. This issue also needs to be looked into by the Government.

Cross-border terrorism no longer seems to be a part of the diplomatic agenda of the South Block. We all know that cross-border terrorism has seriously jeopardized India's sovereignty and progress. Development will be impossible, without effective law and order mechanism being developed.

The Government also needs to take note of the naxalite problem. The Government of India should not leave it as a simple law and order problem of the State. The Government should also consider the social, economic and political reasons behind this problem. The serious backwardness due to regional imbalance and perpetual negligence prevailing in the country, poverty and hunger are also immensely responsible in encouraging the unemployed youth to be misguided.

The Government's strategy seems to be on the defensive. I feel that they are not thinking about any permanent strategy for defence, because we are not going for any offensive steps. We are only taking defensive steps against the terrorists. There should be some permanent defensive measures and strategies to be evolved by the Government to tackle terrorism. All the terrorists need to be made aware that they would have to pay a price for their actions. They must be made to realize that the world will be equally unsafe for them, and the nation has to prepare itself for a war against terror.

Lastly, I would hope that this Government will come out from the political trauma – which it is suffering – and good sense will prevail on them to give justice to the nation.

What action Government is taking to arrest these terrorist activities that are going on in this country? I would like that the hon. Home minister to respond to this issue as the entire nation is suffering from it. How will we come out of this trauma? This point should also to be explained by the hon. Home Minister, while giving reply to this debate.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, at the beginning, I must confess that I thought that something more would come out of this debate. But I am really shocked by the way in which the whole debate has been allowed to degenerate. It has been made into a question of hanging a particular person, and into a question of debate between the Home Minister and the particular official. The debate has degenerated itself into an important question that this Government is deliberately playing soft to terrorism. This should not have been the intention.

The intention, as I understood it, was that the Leader of Opposition will seek adjournment to call the attention of the Government to the steps that are needed to combat terrorism in the country. The hon. Members who have spoken have created a sense of panic rather than building self-confidence in the nation. Further, in my humble opinion, the Opposition has succeeded in over-blowing or in blowing-up the present situation in the country, which is very unfortunate. Let us not play political games with a sensitive issue like the internal security of the country. If you play a political game, then it may boomerang on any side.

The nation needs to be united in the battle against terrorism. But I am sorry to say that the speeches – that have been made—have created a sense of division among the people. What has Mr. Advani said here? What is his programme to fight terrorism? Let me say very frankly that Mr. Advani was not in his form today because he was playing on a very weak wicket. He was not in his form. How will he fight terrorism? He wants to fight terrorism with TADA; with POTA; with a deterrent law; with stopping of illegal immigration; and with hanging of Afzal. This is his strategy to fight terrorism in India.

Almost it means that he wants police to be given more teeth. He almost wants a police State in this country. That is where we differ with him – whom to rely upon to fight terrorism. Should we rely upon to fight terrorism on only deterrent laws and police or should we rely upon the people, the nation, the citizens, and the anti-terrorist democratic forces in this country? In his own strategy, there is not a single word about the role of the people. My friend, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, has referred to it, but I would like to do it more elaborately. People have no role to play in the entire speech of nearly one hour. He has not referred to people; he has not called for people's vigilance, to fight the danger of terrorism. He has spoken of a movement of which he has been proud of, but he has not spoken of a popular movement or a popular upsurge to root out the basic foundation of terrorism in India. He has no faith in popular movement, he has no faith in people and he has no faith in the vigilance. He has only one faith, that is, the faith in police being given extraordinary power to do whatever they like in the name of fighting terrorism. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The interruptions will not go on record and only the speech of Shri Dasgupta will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am referring to his speech today. I had very attentively listened to him, and the whole speech is with me. In today's speech, Mr. Advani has not referred or has not used a single sentence on the role of the people. He has not said that because he has no faith; he does not believe in democracy. In a democratic set up, the ultimate strength lies with the people, but since he has no place in his heart for

democracy, therefore, he relies upon police and he wants to make India a Police State. We have fundamental differences with the Leader of the BJP on this. He wants India to be converted into a police State to fight terrorism. We differ with him totally. Not only that, Mr. Advani and my friend were giving out Minutes of a meeting that the hon. minister had. Is it proper to tell in the public what has happened in a meeting where the police officers and the intelligence officers were present to tackle the question of terrorism? Is it proper to dish out the material on the floor of the Parliament? Please understand that you are making the strategy vulnerable by this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

[*Translation*]

Dasgupta Ji, you please continue.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: By telling this, by harping on this, by divulging this—we do not believe all that comes out in the press—and by making a statement, you are giving sanctity to the unconfirmed police reports and the unconfirmed Press reports.

You are giving sanctity to the unconfirmed press reports by referring to them so elaborately. By that, you are making your defence lines open and you are making your strategy public. By that, information is reaching those people whom it should not have reached. It is not a proper thing that should be done in the Parliament.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We should compliment the Home Minister that he has exposed the real thing.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is the problem with some of our Members. They always try to do running commentary in order to interrupt everybody. They are too impatient to listen to a divergent view. This is the problem with their politics. They do not tolerate the people. They do not tolerate a divergent view. They do not tolerate multiplicity of views. They do not tolerate an opposing view. They believe in hegemonism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Member is levelling an allegation.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You should know this is my right.

[Translation]

What allegation is being levelled?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, it is not proper to address anybody else except the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is straightway levelling allegations.

[English]

He is totally misguiding the House and the people of this country. We are equally concerned with the security of the country. He is not the only one who is responsible for the security of the country.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I know there are some Members in the House who are organically against the Communists, not just theoretically. But that is not a part of my talk today.

Let me come the second part. Advani wants to tackle terrorism by what? Mr. Advani wants to tackle terrorism and, therefore, he says: "Talk to Pakistan with caution." He says. "Be vigilant about Bangladesh." They are two of our great neighbours. There are terrorists in Pakistan but there are hundreds and thousands of people in that country who are friends of India. There are terrorists in Bangladesh but there are millions of people in Bangladesh who believe in Indo-Bangla friendship. Let us not hurt them. When he speaks, he should speak of the bureaucracy, he should speak of the terrorists, but he should also speak about the people of these two great countries. I respect the people. People are the ultimate deciding force.

Along with Bangladesh and Pakistan, he speaks of Afzal. What else does he speak about? He speaks of destroying the infrastructure of terrorism. One plus one, plus one, and plus one, that is, four. This is nothing short of, please bear with me, communalizing the sensitive problem of terrorism in India. Is this the method of reviving India?

India stands united. I thank the Government for protecting the foundation of secularism in India. That is the reason of our supporting the Government. I thank the Government. Secularism is the basic foundation and the Government has protected that foundation. It is on the edifice of Indian secularism that we shall fight terrorism in India. We do not need police with more teeth. We want people. We want people's support. With people's support we can resist all the foreign agents and terrorists in the country. But, Mr. Advani has no faith in the people.

While concluding, I bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the question of Naxal. Naxal problem and the problem of cross-border terrorism are not the same. I refuse to accept that cross-border terrorism and the problem of Naxal are the same in nature. Since there is impatience among the people, since a significant part of the community does not believe that the political system of the country has delivered to the people their needs, there is frustration among them.

17.00 hrs

Therefore, there is a lack of confidence; therefore, there is a lack of faith in the democratic system of the country. Poverty is linked with naxalism; unemployment is linked with naxalism; and impatience is linked with naxalism. Naxalism cannot be eradicated with the massive and masculine force of the State. There has to be other efforts also. We need to create jobs; we need to eradicate poverty; and we need to build up massive source of infrastructure to tackle the basic human problems.

Look at Nepal. Naxals in Nepal have used and exploited the poverty to become portent political force. In India, if the hon. Home Minister would take care of it, he should take care of the problem of poverty, unemployment instead of falling victim to the fallacious argument of giving more teeth to the Police. In this regard, I refer to *Satwan jhudam*, the movement being sponsored by two major political parties of the country. In Chhattisgarh, both the political parties are financing them; giving them arms. It will create the conditions of a civil war. Let the Government restrain the political forces; let the Government ensure that police will tackle naxalism. They should not arm the people to fight another section of the people. That is not the people's upsurge, that is the manipulated game of two political parties. In this connection, I way that we are not taking that path.

My friend, Shri Sudhakar Reddy is here. He addressed meeting in the naxal area. Seventy-five

thousand people had attended. Chhattisgarh Government never gave them the permission to hold the meeting. We have to go to the High Court to get the permission. Here is Shri Sudhakar Reddy. We mobilized 75,000 people without a single arm, without a single single grain of RDX. That is the way to tackle the problem of naxalism. I call upon the Government to protect the foundation of secularism. At the same time, step up its efforts to tackle the question of terrorism in the country.

With these words, I oppose the Adjournment Motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak though I am ill and have been discharged from hospital only yesterday.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Speak slowly.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, being a Member of Bahujan Samaj Party, I would like to bring on record the perception of an average Indian Muslim about today's circumstances through Bahujan Samaj Party's point of view. With folded hands, I would like to request the Members sitting on my left and right sides to listen to my views for a few minutes. If you have any objections. Please raise it afterwards. I always speak about justice and if I oppose BJP, I oppose Congress too.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter regarding death sentence to Afzal is being discussed here. I would like to tell categorically that Chaudhary Lal Singh is the sole representative of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to say making an apology from him, that the relation of average Indian Muslims with the Kashmiri Muslims have never been close.

17.04 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

Even today, thousands of Indian Muslims enter into wedlock within Pakistani brothers every year be it Lahore or Karachi. I would recommend to award Ph.D. degree to a person if he be able to arrange even a hundred weddings with the Indian Muslims. I do not know the number of Muslims living in Kashmir but their number is in lakhs. I recommend that if someone arrange a match about a hundred or fifty marriage; he may be awarded a

Ph.D. Degree. Why the matters of Kashmiri people are linked with the rest of Indian Muslims? They have been exploited in the past 50-60 years, but it is unfair to term all Muslims as terrorists. I would like to say that you should be thankful to Indian Muslims and it is unfair to link everything with them.

Mr. Chairman Sir, today 60-70 groups are engages in terrorists activities in the country. They include groups from Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, North-East, Tamil Nadu, Kashmir and Punjab. Honestly speaking out of them there are only 4-5 muslim groups and groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-E-Taiba who do not have any relation with India. You can not find more than 4-5 groups, who have any connection, with the Muslims and are engaged in terrorist activities. If a Muslim commits a crime, it becomes a big crime whereas big crime committed by a person of other community becomes a minor crime—this perception is not right.

Sir, our Shiv Sena colleagues are not sitting here. I think, you can not eliminate terrorism from the country till you keep on making a difference between Bal Thackrey and Dawood Ibrahim. Be it the NDA Government erramal or UPA Government, a trend is being followed that in order to cover its failure, police claim that external forces are behind every terrorist activities. A few months back an incident of bomb blasts in trains in Mumbai took place and within ten minutes of the incident the news about involvement of external forces has come. On the second day, the Chief Minister had also made a statement that ISI of Pakistan was behind the blasts. I am saying that police claim involvement of external forces behind every terrorist incident in order to cover its failure.

Sir, I would like to raise the voice of the Muslims of Hindustan emphatically and like to say that is it not a matter of shame that we have become so weak that we can not preach the involvement of external forces in the incidents taking place in our country? We have thousands of I.P.S. officers in addition to lakhs of police constables and inspectors in the country and if they could not check the involvement of external forces in the incidents, then what would be more shameful than that for our system? Either all these IAS and IPS offices should consume poison or should resign their posts or fresh recruitment should be made by terminating them. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, I do not want to repeat the things. You mention about POTA again and again. I would like to say that unless discrimination between high and low, race and community will not be eliminated from the society a thousand times more

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

stringent law than POTA and TADA will not do any good for the country you will have to make every Indian feel through your deeds to asserts that the rule of justice is prevailing in the country. Until then we can't eliminate terrorism together.

Sir, many persons are being killed in encounter in various parts of the country in which Maharashtra is at first, Uttar Pradesh is at second and Delhi, at third place. You can kill lakhs of persons in encounters but you can't check terrorism. Someone from the race of the deceased person would rise up to take revenge. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please make your point.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Please listen to a point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You can eliminate terrorism from the country only by bringing equality in society and justice. If a large number of people will be kept without education and awareness for thousands of years in the society, they would become rebels and no power on this earth would be able to stop them from becoming rebels. It is unbecoming of you to talk only about terrorism and naxalism. You should change your perspective. If someone explodes a bomb or kills people by opening fire in a market or attacks a village in right by becoming fed up with injustice, as happens in Bihar, it will be termed as terrorism. Naxalism and terrorism are two different perceptions. Unless you change these perceptions it will not do any good to the country. If you demolish Babri Masjid in connivance with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Central Government in broad day light and play with the sentiments of crores of people and order the police to open fire on the people in Mumbai who were demonstrating against it and to carry out massacre of thousands of people in two stages on December 6 and January 7 and deploy police there who keep on making announcements on wireless to save Muslims and if the then joint Commissioner of Police. Aftab Khan gave any order. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please resume you seat. It seems, you are not well.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Despite repeated announcements and lack of justice, entire system is bent upon eliminating a community with the support of the Government of Congress; no case is registered and no body is arrested.

In this scenario, nothing can prevent recurrence of the incident that took place on 12th of March. The then Congress Govt. is more responsible than Maharashtra Police and Tiger Memon for the incident of 12th of March. What will happen if you indulge in massacres and not provide justice? I was in Mumbai and I have seen that. I have no hesitation in saying that if I was in my twenties, I would have been died as a terrorist. Hence, if you will close all the doors then nobody can stop the spread of terrorism. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may sit down please. You are not well.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, this is my last sentence. I would like that the Members of Parliament should note this point and try to ponder over that if you will remove the disparity and crime from the society, make every class happy and remove discrimination on the basis of caste and religion in the country and then if anyone becomes a terrorist then hang Ilyas Azmi at the biggest crossing of Delhi, Ilyas Azmi will forgive. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then we will have to install your statue.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You are saying that hang me. But who will get involved in this litigation?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I will give it in writing that nobody should be implicated. I am going to read last sentence. Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Sharad Pawar both are holding the reins of the Government of Maharashtra. The manner in which Maharashtra Government has taken stand against the Muslims is very shameful. There is not a single evidence. Our Government had said that we will provide evidence to Pakistan. But our Government has not provided any evidence on the occasion when the Home Minister of Pakistan had visited India. You are creating new terrorists by doing atrocities. Mr. Sharad Pawarji you must make it clear to your home Minister Shri Shivraj Patilji and your Chief Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech will not be recorded. Nothing will be recorded. Dr. Rattan Singh.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please sit down, nothing is being recorded. Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Dr. Ratan Singh. You may sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please stop. Your speech is over now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you interrupting. Nothing is being recorded.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in favour of the Adjournment Motion brought by Shri Advani. We should all be concerned about the internal security scenario. The security of the country is of paramount importance and it should be strengthened. However, this concern has not been reflected in the speeches made by the Hon. Members. Those sitting on my right are concerned about Hindu votes. The left parties are concerned about the Naxalites. The treasury benches are concerned about the Muslim votes. No one is concerned about the security scenario in the country.

Sir, who was responsible for the genesis of terrorism in Punjab? The Congress party is responsible for this. They are also responsible for the massacre of Sikhs in the country. Sir, the then Home Minister of India and the then Chief Minister of Punjab were at loggerheads. Their tussle resulted in the genesis of terrorism in Punjab. As a result, thousands of people were killed. It also resulted in assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. After that, thousands of innocent Sikhs were butchered. Sir, when Mahatma Gandhi was killed by Nathuram Godse, how many Hindus had been killed in retaliation? But, after Shrimati Indira Gandhi's assassination, Sikhs were targeted at the behest of then Government.

Sir, sixty years have passed since Independence. The Congress party has ruled at the Centre for almost 50 years. But, illiteracy, poverty and riots are the only legacy bequeathed by the Congress party to the Indians. The Congress party has ruled the country for the maximum period but it has meted out only injustice to the people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please sit down. Let him speak. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, poverty is the root cause of terrorism and Naxalism but no one has ever tried to eradicate poverty. We have conveniently ignored the poor people of the country. We have announced numerous schemes for the poor. We have passed numerous budgets in this august House. But, no help ever reaches the poor and the downtrodden. Had these schemes reached the poor and needy, there would have been no terrorism, naxalism and riots in the country. The Congress party is responsible for all the ills plaguing this country as it has ruled over this country for fifty years.

Once, Punjab was a prosperous State. But, terrorism was introduced in Punjab. As a result the State bled for twenty years. It pushed Punjab back by fifty years. The economy of Punjab is in shambles. The education sector is limping. Terrorism left a trail of devastation for the youths of Punjab. An entire generation of youths was wiped out. The Congress party cannot shirk its responsibility for this disaster. As such, the Congress party was fully responsible for the genesis of Naxalism and terrorism. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gill, please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking in Punjabi.

Perhaps the Hon. Member cannot understand Punjabi. Kindly use the headphone and listen to the interpretation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may conclude your speech immediately.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Congress party is in power in Punjab. A terrorist named Hawara, who had killed the late Chief Minister Beant Singh, escaped from prison during this period. It is

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

shocking to know that the Punjab Government was providing protection to this escaped terrorist. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue. His point is not going on records.

[English]

Nothing going on records.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Chairman, Sir, these people cannot face the reality. They can neither speak the truth, nor listen to the truth. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gill, please sit down.

[English]

Mr. Gill, please take your seat. Nothing is going on record.

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, in Haryana, the house of Schedule Caste people have been burnt down. If such an injustice is meted out to the downtrodden, they are bound to become terrorist. The hon. Member hails from Haryana. What has the Haryana Government done for the affected people? Sir, I am amazed. The Hon. Member from Haryana is silent on this issue. What is happening in Haryana? These people are responsible for the birth of terrorism in India. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gill, take your seat.

[English]

Mr. Gill, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, Hawara was responsible for the assassination of late Chief Minister Beant Singh. He fled from the prison. He was given protection by the Congress Governments of Punjab and Haryana. He was caught from a Government accommodation. Who was protecting him? In Punjab, elections are round the corner. The Congress party is using terrorists to harm Shiromani Akali Dal. The DGP of Punjab has himself confessed that there are 300 such militants in Punjab who are dead in police records, but are actually alive. The militants are used to foment trouble during elections in Punjab.

Chairman, Sir, the Congress party has a habit of patronizing the terrorists. Can we check the menace of terrorism with such policies?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point, you may take your seat now.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: Sir, the Government is living in a fool's paradise if it thinks that terrorism can be stamped out force or by the police. Without the active support of people, terrorism cannot be controlled.

The need of the hour is to work for the upliftment of the poor. We must rise above party politics. Only then can we control terrorism.

I appeal to the left parties not to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. They should not side with Naxalites. It is not in the interest of the country.

Sir, I request all the hon. Members to rise above petty politics. Let us all unite in our fight against terrorism. Let us rise above party politics. If we indulge in bickering among ourselves, we will not be able to rein in terrorism. Let us unite and fight the menace of terrorism together.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in favour of the adjournment motion brought by hon'ble Advaniji in this House. Though everything have been said and when an hon'ble Member speaks as a fifth or sixth speaker, then there is no new point left to be made. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, whenever I speak, I am interrupted but it gives me strength. ...*(Interruptions)* Without interruptions I cannot speak well. ...*(Interruptions)*

Internal security is not a subject to play politics. I am here to cast aspersions. I am not here to make allegations and counter allegation but I can't understand why people here feel worried when I speak. I am not able to understand.

I have won from Bhagalpur with more than 55 thousand votes. Many people here will be happy and many others here will be feeling uneasy over that. I have spoken about sealing but my this speech may be considered as my maiden speech because I had to speak on internal security only. I while supporting what Advaniji has said I would like to say. ...*(Interruptions)* we will also talk about Gujarat. Congress had engineered at riots Bhagalpur and I come here after winning from that place. I won election from that place where riots had taken place during the period of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Keep silence, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Lalu Ji came to power after the Bhalpur riots and they were wiped out. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Chairman Sir, I will speak within the time-frame but please give me some extra time for interruptions are being made. ...(Interruptions) Terrorism is not a subject associated with any party or any caste or any religion. It should be considered rising above the caste, religion or border. I just want to say that there should be effective law for it. Laws regarding terrorism are being made across the world. Every time we give example of Pakistan but today Pakistan is forced to take action against terrorism under the global pressure after being infested with it. When there was the NDA Government we had compelled Pakistan to accept that they were promoting terrorism. You cannot tackle terrorism only with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It is also right as Advani Ji has said that laws should not be misused. If section 302 is misused then would you abolish it by privilege motion. If there is a violation of any law then it must be stopped and whatever people say, it will make no difference to us.

When 9/11 occurred in America, I was Civil Aviation Minister here. There were many challenges before India. At the time of 9/11, when Twin towers were demolished by crashing the planes, same conspiracy was hatched here in India also. They were not able to reach airport because we have fully tightened the security. We had deployed CISF there. ...(Interruptions) That's why they targeted Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Manvendra Singh Ji, you are a senior Member. Why do you stand all the time.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Chairman Sir, he is such a veteran Member but still he is not allowing a young member like me to speak. You can interrupt me, if I am wrong. I had made a special request

to Lalu Ji to be present in the House during my speech. I had written letter to him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You may speak now.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: After 9/11, laws were made in America, Europe and Britain. Measures were taken to implement these laws effectively. But in our country attack was made on our Parliament on 13th December. Had the terrorists entered into the Parliament we would have been killed. We people would have been in the heaven instead of being here in this Parliament. Every member of Parliament was speaking in the same tone. But after that politics started. I was the member of 13th Lok Sabha. I joined the 14th Lok Sabha a little late, but it is better late than never. I am not a senior or junior Member. My party has allotted me a second row seat. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta was saying that I am the junior most Member. There should not be any problem to you if my party has given me a seat right behind the seat of Shri Vajpayeeji.

I would like to say that Ayodhya was attacked on 5th July, why was this attack made? It was made with the intention that tension may be created in our country. But I salute the people of this country. Again on 25th August a blast was carried out in front of the Taj Hotel in Mumbai in which 46 people were killed. This attack was made a day before Diwali on 29th October when we were also celebrating Id collectively and in which a large number of people were killed. Thereafter, the Technology Hub in Bangalore was attacked on 28th December. Again, Kashi in Varansi was attacked on 7th March. A number of people were killed in Doda of Udhampur District on 1st May. We visited that place. ...(Interruptions) RSS Headquarters was attacked on 1st May, 2006. There was a blast in train in Mumbai on 11th July. This department is under Hon. Minister of Railways. 190 people were killed in the train blast. People were dying there and you kept on announcing that the matter was being inquired into. What I want to say is that whether some measures should be taken or only announcements should be made that inquiry is going on. After the 9/11 incident, the terrorists have not been able to strike again because of proper planning by America. We should take some concrete steps to save the lives of innocent people in this country, but we are not doing anything for it. It is being discussed here. A number of things have been mentioned during the discussion on terrorism. Priyaranjan Das spoke in such a manner as he were speaking for everyone. I supposed that the speech of Advanijee would be talked about, for this

[Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain]

speech has been a hit. It was for this reason that Shri Gurudas Dasgupta intentionally stated that Advanijee was not speaking up to the mark. I never expected it from them that they will say that Advanijee made a very good speech. They are not so generous. We do not expect it from them. We know that whenever they say that Advanijee didn't make a good speech, we will suppose that his speech was very good. Priyaranjan da said that no reference should be made about DG, IG as our leader was doing. I think if the matter is highlighted by the press, is it not proper to discuss it in the Parliament? You can make a reference about them. Target of India was talked about here and it was said that Kargil was not allowed to be discussed here. Who prevented you? It was discussed across the country.

I will not stretch my point too far and would like to say you that it was discussed at different places. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta is a very senior parliamentarian and we are here to learn something from him. But he made a statement that Naxalites have eradicated poverty in Nepal. You are supporting the Government. Would you like to suggest that Naxalites should be invited to train the Government? Would they tell the Government how poverty is removed? Can Naxalism be an ideal solution to this problem? People holding the guns can never be held right, whatever religion they belong to.

Through you, I would like to say what is being discussed now-a-days about Afzal. Is the BJP opposing Afzal, for his name is Afzal? Had Afzal been Guru, even then BJP would have opposed it that much strongly. Our country, our Parliament, our freedom has not been attained easily, we have not been elected without someone else's sacrifice. We are here because Ashfaq Ulla Khan went to gallows to save this country and Parliament. Ashfaq Ulla Khan didn't go to the gallows that there will be campaign to save the people who attacked the country. Through you, I would like to say that this is our country. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say to you that this country was divided on 15th August, 1947. The Muslim who didn't love India and accepted partition on the basis of religion, went to Pakistan. My and Azam Jee's forefathers decided that this is our country, this is our motherland. We live for the country and would like to die for the country. It is for this reason that I want to say that Muslims didn't need any certificate from any so-called secular leader. We have gone through examination. When the Muslims of Hindustan decided to stay here they didn't feel the need of any certificate. ...*(Interruptions)* We do not need any certificate either

from Advaniji or from Luljee. I belong to the Muslim community and I am a citizen of India and I am proud of it. I do not need any certificate for it. ...*(Interruptions)* Through you I would like to state that I have said anything wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hussainji the time given to your party is over now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, I am being disturbed. My party and you have allotted me time, but I am being disturbed. I would like to request you that when Ariel Sharon visited India, Advanijee met him in the capacity of Deputy Prime Minister. At that time he had made a strong statement. Since then I hold him in very high esteem. He had said

[English]

"We are against terrorism. We are not against Islam."

[Translation]

No Head of State said this to Ariel Sharon, which our leader Advanijee did. In this country Muslims are enjoying all the freedom. The rights Hindustani Muslims are enjoying, they can't get it in Pakistan. Minorities in Bangladesh can't get it there. Here a Muslim can become President, he can become Chief Justice, here a Muslim can become captain of Cricket and Hockey teams. When a player goes to play cricket for the country, when Irfan Pathan plays for the country and he sustains injury, then the pain that his father goes through, is felt by our leaders Shri Santosh Gangwar, Advanijee also and Mr. Chairman, Sir, even you go through the same pain. Here some people have alleged that I want to make a vote Bank.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over now, you please take your seat.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, please allow me to speak for another five minutes.

Sir, the electorate of Bhagalpur have sent me here to speak. From the depth of my heart I would like to say that I have been elected from Bhagalpur. I am not a resident of Bhagalpur. A large scale riots erupted there in 1989. Luljee was in power then. The riots affected

people have not got justice till today even after 15 years. I have been elected and sent here as a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity of the people of Bhagalpur. The place where riots took place, the people like us work for the Hindu-Muslim Unity. This is not politics for us, this is a mission for us. Shahnawaz Hussain has not come here to play politics, he is here to work for a mission. So I would like to conclude my point with Afzal's issue. India is a secular country, but Saudi Arabia is an Islamic state.

[English]

Saudi Arabia is an Islamic country where Quran is the Constitution. Article 1 of the basic law of the Government says: Quran and Sunnat Rassol are the substantive Constitution of Saudi Arabia.

[Translation]

The Quran is treated as the constitution there, and the persons who have indulged in terrorism, have relations with Al Qaida, have been charged with attacking the embassy, are beheaded openly in front of a Mosque in northern Saudi city Aljapha on a Friday there for rebelling against the country. Islam doesn't allow a person to be disloyal to his country. Patriotism is half honesty there. If someone is a Muslim and he is a true Muslim, it is certain that he loves his country. So what religion Afzal belongs to is not the question. Since people of every religion have faith in the Supreme Court and its verdict and if the court has found any person guilty of attacking the Parliament and has given its verdict then it should be put into action. We are not saying it just because of his being a Muslim. I would like to submit that this issue should not be politicized here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say while expressing my gratitude towards you that people of the country would not forgive those who are politicizing it in the name of the internal security of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* I am an elected Member of this House. Kindly listen to me quietly. The security deposit of you candidate was forfeited there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have discussed very well, now please conclude.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to say my last point. Some thing was said about Sachchar Committee. On the other hand a person from minority in NDA has become a member by winning election, he is not being allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not respond to him and conclude by saying your last point.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: RJD Members are threatening us. Victory of a minority person is intolerable for them. They speak about minority. If any Yadave leader of your party threatens a Muslim leader then Lalu ji should rebuke him and ask him not to behave in such manner. The society in which we are born, the people of our society are not coward, I am speaking here as I do not fear anybody. Shahnawaz Hussain is not scared of anybody but Khuda. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not accusing anybody. I have said my point here quite honestly. ...*(Interruptions)* The Security deposit of the Congress candidate was forfeited there, so please sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken well, now please conclude.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I express my gratitude to you and appeal to the House that the matter of the internal security of the country should not be politicised. We all are united, we will speak unitedly and protect and country.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: (Varanasi) Mr. Chairman Sir, with your permissin I want to speak for the front seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to oppose the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition Shri L.K. Advani. The reason to oppose the motion is not just because we are speaking against this. The matter of fact is that this motion is moved on the internal security but when it is discussed from that side it seems that it is not only the internal security but a motion on Afzal Guru which is being discussed here. The factual position of the internal security of the country is not clear by the kind of discussion being made from that side.

The internal security of our country is facing threat from three sides. Form one side there is a threat of attack form outside when we call terrorist, secondly, the naxalite activities have been going on in several parts of the country and it is causing threat to internal security and thirdly, threat to internal security from Maffias and Dons operating in several States is also being realized to some extent these days.

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

Sir, when we think over the fact that from where the first bullet of terrorism was fired then it automatically comes to our mind that the very foundation of the terrorism was laid at the very site from where a man had shot at the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi at the time when India got freedom and those who line up in the same category are the ardent supporters of terrorism. We do not want to discuss about the places where the incidents of terrorism had occurred during the rule of NDA and UPA Government. We were listening to the speech of hon. Advani ji that we had invited Musharraf Saheb to Agra for talks, he did not accept our proposals and left India with resentment. It did not cause any adverse effect on us. As you know, Musharraf Saheb was given a warm welcome at Agra just like a bridegroom leading a baarat. When Musharraf Saheb did not concede to their point and left for Pakistan by making them repenting then their Government said after getting ashamed that he did not concede to their point.

During the discussion Advani ji was saying that he was associated with the Ayodhya movement and he was proud of it. We are very junior to the leader of the opposition and new members of this House but we want to say and we are of the opinion that if any leader of national level visits any place where there is apprehension of riots are going on, his visit controls the situation and it returns to normalcy only then it is assumed that he is a leader of national level. Advaniji's visit creates riots in entire India.

Last year, a bomb exploded in Sankat Mochan temple of Varanasi. The bomb blast occurred at quarter to seven at railway station. Parliament session end at 8 p.m. and U.P.A. Chairperson visited Varanasi in the night and stayed there till morning. She met people of both Hindu and Muslim. Community. *...(Interruptions)*. You should listen to me and learn something from that and hon. Advani ji should also be asked to act in the same way. When hon. Sonia ji arrived at Varanasi at 12 p.m. Muslims were frightened and Hindus were apprehensive that their temple had been attacked. Sonia ji visited every nook and corner of the area and returned to Delhi at 6 a.m. In the evening, peace was restored in entire Varanasi. The people of India and outside could not believe as to how the peace had been restored in entire Varanasi? Next day their leaders hold a chowki inside the temple and made a demand to arrest the terrorist otherwise they will go on hunger strike.

I want to congratulate respected priest of the temple who showed the exit way to their chowki and asked

them that if they want to go on hunger strike and politicise the matter then please get out of the temple they were not allowed to do so inside the temple. this was told to their national leader. We are proud to say that UPA has a chairperson of such a great personality that when she visited Mumbai bomb blast site with Hon. Railways Minister, peace and normally restored in Mumbai the very next day. Today, big mafias are a threat to internal security of India for example, I want to say that today there are big mafias in every district of Uttar Pradesh. Few of them are in jails and some are outside the jail and remaining mafias are ministers in the Government there. A threat has been created to the internal security there. Today, people of the state are less scared of terrorist and naxalites from out side the state. The mafias in Uttar Pradesh Government and those who are in jails operate their activities from there in 15 districts. They conduct administration of these districts from jails.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your point has been accepted. You have made your point. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: He is my elder brother. He is my brother from my home district. I would like to tell those NDA Members who talk about Afzal that they have given a request letter of clemency to the President as per legal procedure. They are perplexed and in hurry because he is Afzal. During the term of N.D.A. Government 22 such cases were referred to H.E the President. *...(Interruptions)* During the term of their Government, they had not taken action against a single person. Why they did not show any urgency about it that time. Since Afzal is not a terrorist but he is a Muslim. Had he not been a Muslim, they would not have shown their urgency about it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: If you want to combat terrorism, you will have to change your attitude. We cannot divide any terrorist in the name of community or caste. If any person of any religion is a terrorist, he is a terrorist. We should have same attitude towards every terrorist. If you want to deal with terrorism by dividing the community, we can say that you do not want to fight the terrorists. We are not making these allegations, the people of whole India are of this opinion. When you talk of Afzal, every person is given to understand that you are not talking of a terrorist. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Now what you are speaking is not going on record.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have concluded your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: His speech is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman Sir, today the issue of Internal Security is being discussed here. ...(Interruptions) Sardar is sitting here and you are working under his leadership. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if such interruptions take place, I will also have the slip of tongue. I would like to submit that I don't want to speak about anybody, but if somebody uses the foul language, I will reply him in the same language. I should not be underestimated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly address the chair.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today discussion is taking place on the issue of internal security. The only reason for discussing internal security is that not only the Government but every one feels that the internal security of India is under threat. When the adjournment motion is discussed here, it is understood that the adjournment motion means censure on the Government. Several Members have participated in this discussion and it has been discussed at length. However I would like to mention only one or two points. The terrorism has been perpetrated and sponsored in this country in a well planned manner from outside any we are facing its threat. However the country has also become the victim of various threats from within in the form of Maoism, extremism and Naxalism. The circumstances or leading the country to reel under such situation have resulted in threat to our internal security. I have gone through the report received from the Hon. Home Minister in which it has been discussed in detail as to what he is going to do with regard to strengthening police forces in the states, providing training, allocation of the funds and raising battalion of the Paramilitary forces. It is clear from the report that there has been a decline in the terrorist activities in comparison to the scale of terrorism earlier. However, he has given a statement in a newspaper, which he has already refuted. The

authenticity of the newspaper is also being doubted but now a days this country runs on the newspaper. An S.P. was transferred in Ranchi and it made the headlines in the newspaper of which the High Court took cognisance and put a stay on the transfer. We also discuss issues in the House on the basis of news published in the newspaper. When the country is run through the newspaper it is beyond doubt to question the authenticity of some news. There is a contradiction in both the manner in which the Hon. Home Minister's statement has been published in the newspaper or in his report regarding the decline in terrorist activities in the country or the way it has been highlighted in the newspaper regarding threat can pose to various institutions of the country, these two contradictory conceptions have given rise to the atmosphere of fear in the country. And we seek friendly relations in this atmosphere of fear. It is quite good to seek friendly relations and we must adhere to it but you need to be cautious from such a friend because when you extend your hand of friendship for cementing the relations some backstabbing takes place somewhere and it has become a routine feature. As Shri Advaniji had pointed out that when Shri Atal Bihariji went to Lahore by bus from Delhi as Prime Minister, we had to face the Kargil war. Sometimes it is witnessed that whenever process of friendly talks begins a terrorist attack takes place. Where does the attack take place? The attack takes place in the religious places or crowded places or the trains. The terrorists have only one intention behind these attacks, not of killing the people rather attacking the unity and integrity of India. This is because the very fabric of India consists of different language speaking people living in various regions and people of various castes and religion with different life-styles but whenever the different caste or religion stand together firmly to save the integrity and unity of the country. That is why they resort to attacks because attack on the religious places will kill many persons which will lead to communal passions in the country and pose threat to its unity and integrity. Similarly, by attacking the crowded places, they want to create an atmosphere of terror in the country. Not only this, they also attack the economy of the country. The fake currency being smuggled in the country by the I.S.I. is an attack on the economy of the country.

18.00 hrs.

Similarly, this problem persists from Andhra Pradesh to Nepal. However, the situation in Nepal has undergone a change for the time being. The changed situation in Nepal seems to be favourable for India. The Maoists groups used to intrude in India from the territory stretching from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar on the border to give rise to some incident. We feel that the rise in extremism and

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Maoism in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was triggered from Nepal side. But now the Nepal's Maoists are joining the mainstream there. Therefore, we realise that India is going to heave a sigh of relief in this situation.

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is not present here now. We would like to urge the Government that talks with Maoist and Naxalite leaders of those areas should be held. If useful, then whether it may be Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Orissa or Chhattisgarh, those leaders should be contacted and they should be brought into the main stream. The feeling of insecurity will continue, whether there are external terrorists attacks, or whether there are internal attacks of Naxalites, Maoists and terrorists. Therefore we would like to urge upon you that the Minister of Home Affairs of the Government of India is needed to seek assistance from the Naxalite and Maoist leaders for internal security of India if they are willing to do so.

Secondly, I would like to say that according to the data given in their books, it is observed that the number of citizens and policemen killed is equal to those of the terrorists killed. Although all the means are available with us. We have trained personnel of Military and Para-military forces, even the police forces of states are being trained to counter the terrorists. But in spite of all these things the terrorists are getting success in their mission. We assume that the failure of our intelligence Agency is the reason behind this. Just two days ago, a news was reported in the newspapers that two terrorists were detained in Delhi and they were living in Delhi for last one year. Delhi is the Capital of the country. From Intelligence Agency to all types of intelligence are available here. Usually newspapers tell out that if some outsider wants to live in Delhi, first of all he should inform the Police Station. He has to submit his personal details also. Only after that he can rent a house in Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: So early?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am constrained.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Let me speak for one more minute. I was saying that in spite of such a strong arrangement a terrorist had made his nub in Delhi for one year and intelligence agencies could not find him out. It means that our intelligence system is weak our

intelligence system is not capable to find out such terrorists. Since you have rung the bell, I conclude by thanking you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The timing for the House was up to 6.00 P.M. If the House agree the time may be extended for an Hour. The Minister of Home Affairs is yet to reply. If you agree the proceedings of the House will conclude in one Hour.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: May be increased for half an Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ok. The time of House is being extended for half an Hour.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the every word of the Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, hon. Shri Advaniji. I oppose this Motion because the arguments advanced by Shri L.K. Advaniji have no substance. The arguments are fallacious, and they are not based on facts.

His main onus is that there is an alarming growth in the incidents of violence in the country causing great concern in the security situation. If someone says that there is an alarming situation, he should be able to substantiate with the facts and figures.

I have listened to the speech of Shri Advaniji with all care and attention, and I could not find out any of the bases on which he had built his arguments.

Therefore, I tend to believe that the argument of the Leader of the Opposition cannot be accepted. He was mostly obsessed only with absurd issue and not about the security issue of the country. This morning when he made a statement he said that he was indicted because he was leading a movement. What kind of movement he was leading into? Was he leading a movement for the sake of the Scheduled Caste people of this country? Was he leading a movement for the sake of the Other Backward Classes in this country, who constitute about 60 per cent?

When the issue of Mandal Commission came, he said: "Mandir is more important than Mandal". What kind of movement it was? Therefore, the argument that he has given has no evidences. But to put things in the right perspective, I would like to tell this House that the

security situation has to be judged in terms of three parameters. One, we have to take into account the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The second one is that we have to look into the Naxalite problem, and the third one is that we will have to look into the communal situation. Now, in assessing these three parameters, we will have to take into account some of the temporal and inter-temporal facts and figures.

When you look at the facts, the facts are available from the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India about the various incidents that have taken place, and there are a large number of reputed research studies in this country. They have also assessed the security situation. I have gone through all those facts. They reveal that the security situation today is not worse. It has not become bad when compared to a few years ago.

To give you some of the statistics, I should tell you that in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, the terrorist incidents in 2002 were 4038. It declined to 1442 in October, 2006, which means, three-fourths of the incidents which existed in 2002, have come down now. The number of civilians killed was 1008 in 2002. It has come down to 340. What do these facts show? What do these statistics show? They show that the incidents of violence are declining and the security situation is improving in the country.

When you take the situation in the North-East also, the number of incidents in 2002 was 1319 and it has become 1000 in 2006. Therefore, all parameters show that the situation is improving today. Even in the North-East, especially in Manipur, the situation is improving today. Now apart from the facts about the terrorists, the Naxalite incidents also show that there is only a marginal increase but the overall situation is improving, thanks to the efforts taken by the Government. *...(Interruptions)* I am giving relevant facts to this House. Kindly permit me to speak for two or three minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister has to reply.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir, Everybody will have to speak. You have given 15 to 20 minutes to other hon. Members. They have spoken only stories and wishful thinking here. I am substantiating my points with facts and figures and statistics.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your Party has only three minutes' time.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: What kind of distribution it is!

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I can give you one more evidence. It is not given by the Ministry of Home Affairs. But a reputed study done by the Centre for the Study of Developing Society also shows this. It conducted a survey. The results of the study were published on 15th August, 2006. This study was based on a survey of 14,860 respondents in India spread over 883 villages and urban areas in 19 States. Now, the important finding of the study is that three-fourths of the people feel completely safe in their own localities and only five per cent say that they feel very insecure. It means that India is now becoming more and more a secured place to live in. Only 25 per cent of the people today feel less safer than what they did a few years ago.

When you compare the South Asian security, about which also the same Centre, the Centre for the Study of Developing Society, had made a study, it shows that among the South Asian countries, India is more secure than other countries. Now, what more evidence do you want to show that today the security situation in India is better than other countries?

The third important suggestion is that popular perception of the people about security is not associated with terrorism at all. They are worried more about the normal occurrence that are taking place, and in the perception of the people, terrorism is not a major thing.

Muslims and other minorities do not link the terrorism to a particular community. Even the Hindus among the Hindus, 38 per cent of the Hindus feel that it is not connected with any of the religious groups. Therefore, a clear majority of the people feel that the security situation is safe. Now, these two evidences which I have given go to disprove what Shri L.K. Advani has said and the dismal picture that he has painted with regard to the security situation.

I have one more point. Not only that, in the last two-and-a-half years, the Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh has initiated a large number of imaginative initiatives in the field of tackling the security issues. He has taken economic development as the surest antidote against terrorism. He has taken a large number of issues like tackling unemployment, distribution of land

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

resources to the people, providing large amount of welfare measures to people etc. All these things have created a congenial situation in the country. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is initiating a lot of discussions with the Chief Ministers, with the Minister of the foreign countries. The Union Home Secretary is initiating a number of measures.

All those things, therefore, have now created an environment in which the security of the nation is secure. Therefore, the argument of the hon. Leader of the Opposition that there is an alarming growth in the terrorist activities or other activities causing security concern cannot be accepted. Therefore, I urge this House to reject this Adjournment Motion of Shri L.K. Advani, lock, stock and barrel.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, this is an important issue. Please allow me to speak.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some more members from our party are to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for your party is over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, we should be allowed to speak. Please give us some time. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, give me two minutes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The names of other members from your party have not come. If the House will continue up to 4 A. M. then only your name will come. Let Yogi Aditya Nathji speak, why are you disturbing him? Now you sit down. We will see later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chaudhary Lal Singh Ji, please sit down. Your party has not given your name. Minister of Home Affairs will reply, he himself is capable, he will speak on behalf of your party only.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I Stand in favour of the Adjournment Motion presented by the Hon'ble leader of the opposition in regard to the internal security in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the points on which the hon'ble leader of opposition expressed his concern, are actually serious in nature and for the last 2-2½ years, I myself felt that the Government is playing with the internal security of the country. There are so many points we have been noting, whether those are about inside J&K or inside North Eastern states of the country or whether it is the question of attack on religious, spiritual places of majority community or the question of creation of atmosphere of terror among the majority community by bomb blasts on the occasions of festivals in all such cases the petty reaction from the Government side comes that it is the activity of some miscreants. Can we actually ignore our national security and internal security by such a petty reaction? But now-a-days all these things are happening.

We remember that in April, 2004, only five states were affected with the Naxalism. Today, according to the official data, 13 states are affected with Naxalism and if we see it without official data, then about 20-21 states are directly or indirectly affected with Naxalite violence. After all who is supporting them? It will be discussed here and hon'ble leader of opposition has also called attention towards the visit of that Maoist leader of Nepal Mr. Prachand to India. This is the person who is responsible for killing of thousands of people against whom the Red corner notice has been issued in India or Nepal. I wonder, why that person is moving freely here at all? I want to draw attention of Hon'ble Minister towards the fact the peaceful solution of the Maoist problem in Nepal is not actually what it seems. Plundering and anarchy are rampant there. Not only this a conspiracy to make a corridor near the border area of India and Nepal by creating Muslim Liberation Front has also started which is dangerous indication for the internal and external security of the nation.

In addition to this, the Government has always tried to put the National security in danger by ignoring the various important points even if it be the issue of capital punishment by the court to the conspirator of attack on the Parliament the supreme institution of our democracy.

The way statement has been given by a Chief Minister associated with Congress and by a former Chief

Minister points to the direction from which terrorism gets its support and encouragement. I hope the Minister for Home Affairs will give an explanation in this regard. Many-a-time it is said that terrorism has no case but we are sorry to say that while saying so attempt is made to mislead the society only. Terrorism is not being dealt in its right perspective.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

18.18 hrs.

I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to make their governments stand clear about the man in which the question of national security and internal security is being taken very lightly, the way conspiracy is being hatched to divide the people in the name of religion by constituting Sachhar Committee to provide reservation on religious grounds, and the way internal security is being compromised by reacting casually on the issue of Afzal who is an antinational. He should also explain as to in what capacity the Maoist leaders from Nepal are freely moving in India whereas their relations with Naxalites, ULFA of Assam and hardcore terrorists of LITTE of Tamil Nadu are well known. ISI motivates and encourages them for anti-India activities. Despite all this, these elements encourage anti-India activities while freely moving inside the country. Who does not know that when Maoist violence was going on in Nepal, these leaders used to roam around in JNU. Sir, at that time all these Maoist leaders used to move inside JNU and today also these institutions support them from all angles.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate, Yogi Aditya Nath.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Therefore, through you I request that Muslim Mukti Morcha being created by the Government in the border areas of India and Nepal is an attempt to create a dangerous situation for India's security.

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Adityanath ji please cooperate.

[*English*]

Your party's time is over, and your time is also over.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I want to say that Government should not take it lightly.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will can the hon. Minister to reply, if you do not cooperate.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I want to say that the Government is constantly playing with the internal security of India, whether it is the attack on Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, or attack on Sankat Mochan Mandir in Kashi or bomb blast on the eve of Deepawali in Delhi or bomb blasts in trains in Mumbai. This is all done on the pattern of conspiracy but the Government is ignoring the internal security of country. This has created threat for the national security also.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have exceeded your time long ago. Yogi Aditya Nath.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, the Government of UPA is continuously ignoring the internal security of the country. Therefore, while supporting the Adjournment motion presented by the leader of opposition, I request the Minister for Home Affairs that when he replies, he should clear as to why the Government of India is continuously ignoring the internal security of the country.

[*English*]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the security situation in the North-East is very serious. Our hon. Home Minister very well knows about the present situation and the developments. The people of Assam are demanding practical measures to be taken by the Government of India to restore peace and tranquility in the State of Assam. In the last few days, there were a lot of killings by the security personnel. They have killed some innocent civilians; for example, Depojit Moran, a five year old boy from village Mohong Bordumsa in Tinsukia District, was killed by the Indian Army personnel on the 8th of November, and his sister, who is seven years old, is still fighting for life at AIIMS. No inquiry has been instituted so far. As we are against all forms of violence, we demand that the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India should immediately start peace talks with the ULFA and other extremist groups so that peace can be restored in the North-East.

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

For your information, Sir, about a few hour back, there was a bomb-blast in my Constituency in which some Army personnel were killed and one Captain was seriously injured. We condemn all forms of violence. Whoever commits violence, whether it is by the extremist groups or by the security forces, the Government has to take strong political initiatives, and also goodwill measures. The Government of India and the Army failed to bring those extremist outfits to the peace talks. That is why, it is my sincere request to the Government of India that they should put all possible hard-work, dedication and commitment so that peace can be restored in the State of Assam and in the entire North-East. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, if you want to associate, you can associate.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, North-East is the worst affected area in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Without my permission, you are standing up and speaking. You are a very sober Member.

[Translation]

I have already given time to you party.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded, Dr. Sarma. Why are you saying that? Do not record one word.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition on the failure of the Government in maintenance of internal security. I would have to be very brief because there is no time. So, I would not like to repeat all the comments which have already been made by various speakers on the hon. Leader of the Opposition's speech, but I shall only mention one point which has not been mentioned by others. The Leader of the Opposition made a very concrete suggestion that the issuance of Citizens Identity Cards should be speeded up. It is the need of the hour. Citizens Identity Card will not perhaps eliminate illegal immigration but at

least it will make it easier for the security forces to identify illegal immigrants.

As far as the status of internal security is concerned, which we have received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, it is certainly satisfactory to know that over the last one year terrorist activities have been contained to a certain extent and I hope this will be maintained. But I think there is no place for complacency in the matter. I think there is a threat and there is a danger and we should be very vigilant on this score.

I would like to mention that however much we may dislike -although it is not a reflection on the people of our neighbouring countries - two of our neighbouring countries, we know, have been training and sheltering terrorists and helping them in their activities. That is one of the sources of concern, particularly from the point of view of West Bengal. West Bengal does not figure in the statistics given in the status report and luckily there has not been a major terrorist activity, so far there. But because of its geographical position, and because another country, Bangladesh is there, which is also harbouring, sheltering and training militants, we have to be very vigilant on that. We have, as you know, certain activities being conducted by organization like KLO and the Maoists in the State.

I agree with hon. Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta that perhaps the Maoist movement has emerged more for economic reasons. But they are being taken advantage of and used by terrorists who are helping them. Therefore, we should take them seriously and we should be very vigilant. The Centre also should see that terrorist activities in West Bengal, Assam and other North-Eastern States are contained.

With these words, I hope the Ministry of Home Affairs will remain active. All of us should perform our duty and help the Government of India to combat terrorism in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, I agree to the decision of the chair. I thought that you would not allow me to speak. I represent Baramulla and Kupwara and hail from Kashmir. We the people of North-East and Kashmir live in the pool of blood. We do not need to talk much. We heard the speeches of prominent leaders. The leader of opposition moved the

*Not recorded.

Motion and we heard speeches thereafter. From that it became clear that attention from the real problem has been diverted and personal heated exchange is going on. Anyway, it is the spirit of democracy and constitution to happen. I want to humbly submit that our struggle was for freedom of speech. It was snatched from both sides of the border. Nobody is ready to listen anything. But I consider the Prime Minister a praiseworthy leader because he for the first time openly spoke for minorities. He said that the minorities should be brought closer and they should not be made the target. I am thankful to our friends sitting in opposition because, at that time the leader of the Government, the Prime Minister opened the door to Pakistan and reduced the distance by breaking atmosphere of mistrust. We could go to Pakistan many times and have come to know that the people of politics, bureaucracy and judiciary, the common man also want peace. But who is behind terrorism is known to the Ministry of Home Affairs very well. We believe that our Government is alive to the situation but they are not the angels who can solve the problems in a day. Only the contentious issues must be checked and those people should be taken into confidence who at the risk of their lives have been elected whether they are the Members of Panchayat or Assembly or Parliament. Only this way by taking these into confidence these issues can be solved. I want to urge that by giving fillip to our secular ethos and restoring it, the problems in Kashmir, the terrorism would be defeated and peace would return there. But we will have to work unitedly in this effort. If we engage ourselves in differences, our opponents will benefit from the situation.

With these words I urge the Minister of Home Affairs that the Government must check the movement of drugs. Because drugs is the rock bed of terrorism, it must be checked on this side of line of actual control by the Government. I thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Shri Athawale - just three minutes.

Let the time be extended till the end of the debate.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir,

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to you. I was feeling that were annoyed with me, but you have given me an opportunity, therefore, the motion moved by Shri Advaniji in respect of internal security. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Speaker is never angry. I am trying to articulate the views of the people of the country, in my very humble and imperfect way.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Here, we are discussing about the internal security of the country. Though we are opposing the motion moved by Shri Advaniji, there is a need to ponder over the issue of internal security ...*(Interruptions)* We are responsible for the safety of one another. The Constitution framed by Baba Saheb Ambedkar has made us accountable for the security of Hindus, Muslims, Dalits and people of all other castes and religions. Therefore, politics should not be played on the issue of security.

In my view, the number of bomb blasts are on the rise since the demolition of Babri Masjid in December 1992. Terrorism is on the rise and atrocities are being committed on Dalits since then. We are going to complete 60 years of our Independence on the coming 15th August but incidents like murder of a dalit in a village named Khairanjali in Maharashtra are still happening. Unitedly, we would come forward and make all efforts to abolish this casteism.

I am thankful to Shri Advaniji for he has expressed unhappiness over the demolition of Babri Masjid, therefore. I appeal to all the Members that we should rebuild the Babri Masjid together at its original site. We are required to make concerted efforts to promote national integration. Mandir, Masjid, Gurudwara, Bodh Vihar etc. should be protected which will lead to national security.

You may get annoyed if I take more time. Therefore, while concluding I would like to appeal that we all should stand together to fight naxalism and to check the atrocities on Dalits, Hindus and Muslims. Slogan like "We all are united" should echo all over the country. Musharaf should be made aware that Advaniji has come to our side. A

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

message of national integration should go out. With these words, I appeal to Shri Shivraj Patil for internal security. He is a scholar and is a very good person. He hails from Maharashtra and we have lots of hope from him. Such an arrangement should be made which could provide security to all. My demand is that Dalits should be allowed to keep weapons with them if the police is not capable to protect them. It should be given consideration. You may get annoyed if I continue to speak, therefore, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: You should also cooperate with the Chair.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I rise to oppose in no uncertain terms the Adjournment Motion as has been broached by our non-sense former Deputy Prime Minister, at present the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advani ji. As a fashion he has spelt out the security situation which demonstrates his blinkered view and myopic attitude.

We must admit that nobody can be protected by a man with a gun in his hand because security is not a military hardware though it may include it; security is not a military force, though it may involve it; security is not a military activity, though it may encompass it. But the fact is that the Government has been trying and striving hard to generate favourable national and international strategy environment to promote, to protect and to proliferate our national values against all existing and potential threats. This Government has been pursuing this policy in a right manner. We believe in the school of thought that without development there can be no security. Therefore, this Government has been pursuing very stringently the path of development in terms of Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and a plethora of programmes and it has adopted; we believe that only gun cannot silence the security scenario.

I am just surprised to know that Advani ji who laboured hard to know the ISI's spending for anti-Indian activities in their soil, but he did not take any pain to peep through the report as has been presented by our Home Minister in regard to internal security situation; a vivid depiction is an eloquent testimony and one can easily understand the improving security scenario of our country. However, much is yet to be desired.

I would like to raise 2-3 points. I am coming from the Eastern Region of our country. Indo-Bangladesh

border is very proximate to our area. The Home Minister must be aware that the focus of terrorist and insurgent activities have been gradually shifted to the Eastern and North-Eastern areas as the Bangladesh regime, willy-nilly has been harbouring the anti-activities in their soil. Now, it has been found that those adverse possessions in the name of 'enclaves', are being exploited by the insurgents to launch terrorist activities.

A few days earlier, one bomb explosion took place in North Bengal's Belekoba Railway Station. Therefore, I would urge upon this Government to deal with this matter with the Bangladesh Government. Earlier, Indira Gandhi and Mujibur Rahman agreed to exchange adverse possessions or those 'enclaves'.

In this Report, the Government has been paying special emphasis on intelligence infrastructure. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the fact that we are paying so much for strengthening the intelligence infrastructure because intelligence cannot be supplied out of blue. It has to be purchased and for purchasing intelligence you have to pay more for source money. In the naxalite affected areas in my State, West Bengal, only Rs. 3 lakh are being given for the source money.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not discuss these thing in open.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: If these Rs. 3 lakh are distributed to 30 Police Stations - one naxalite affected district consists of 30 police stations - arithmetically you will find that per thana will have per day Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 to spend for intelligence. Naturally, Sir, in garnering intelligence you have to pay more for souce money.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: These matters are not to be discussed in open.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sunderban Delta region in the State of West Bengal will become a breeding ground and the landing ground for the insurgents who are coming from Bangladesh.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your very well.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: There is virtually no existence of administration in those sprawling islands. So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to pay special attention to those isolated islands which are lying in a

vast area in treacherous environment which could be optimally used by the insurgents.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You have been very articulate, as always you are. You have made very good points.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Due to paucity of time, I am concluding my speech. I must be thankful to our Government and the Home Minister as he is striving hard to improve the security situation though we know that internal security management is an enormous task.

MR. SPEAKER: You should thank the Chair also because I have given you the time to speak.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Shri Advaniji. Whenever a discussion takes place here on internal security, the same should be considered deeply in respect of North-Eastern States. I have meticulously gone through the reply of Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to tell the House that there are more than 50 terrorist groups in North-Eastern States. It is the responsibility of the UPA Government to restore peace in North-Eastern States. I would like to tell the Minister of Home Affairs that the Government is holding peace talks with NSCN(IN) and extending the cease fire but NSCN is not only creating troubles for the North-Eastern States but it is bothering the entire country. Also, 10 years have passed since the formation of NSCN. The ULFA problem, the problem in Manipur and Tripura cannot be solved till any solution is found for the problem of NSCN. Therefore, I would like to request the UPA Government that a political will and courage is required in this regard. A solution should be found after holding discussions with NSCN (IN) and NSCN (K). Only then peace can be restored in North-Eastern States. Recently, cease fire was breached by ULFA. I wholeheartedly support the Motion moved by my colleagues from Assam and I would like to state that the Government should initiate talks with UPA also. North-Eastern region is a land-locked area and also the birth-place of hon. Speaker. We want peace in that area.

I would like to give two-three suggestions. Government should not remain confined to the modernization of arms and ammunitions of para-military

forces. The achievement of Punjab Police is praise worthy. The North-Eastern Police should handle the situation in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur on the lines of Punjab Police. State police should be well equipped with all ammunitions. Otherwise, the problem will not be solved. I would like to cite an example. ...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: It is right. It has been published in the newspapers. All are aware of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time left for your party now.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I will conclude in few minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* The issue of border fencing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A few minutes are out of question now.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: We should strongly raise the issue of border fencing of our boundaries with Bangladesh. The arms and ammunition being supplied from Myanmar and the drug trafficking is a serious problem for North-East. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you enough time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kiren Rijiju associated himself with this matter.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: A long discussion was held in the House regarding enactment of a Special Armed Force Power Act for Manipur in the North-East. A study Committee was constituted for Armed Force Power Act. I would like to know as to when this Study Committee would present its report and when action will be taken in this regard? Elections will take place in Manipur in the near future. On behalf of the people of North-East I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister has postponed his visit to Manipur scheduled for 27th. The reason behind it is that the law and order situation there is not quite good. It is my demand that President's Rule should be imposed in Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now nothing will be recorded. Do not exploit my affection for you.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir we welcome the discussion on security situation in India. I would like to congratulate the hon. Members from all sides of this House who have made very pertinent points and definitely we will keep them in our mind while taking the decisions on providing security to the country and to the individuals.

In fact, national security, internal security and law and order are three aspects of security to be provided. The national security is provided by the Defence forces with the cooperation of the Para-military forces and in some cases the police and the people in the country.

Internal security is expected to be provided by the Government of India. But we shall have to understand the meaning of internal security in clear terms and if we do not understand the meaning clearly, then we will be mixing up the issues and unnecessarily creating confusion. It is not possible for the Government of India, in all cases, to send the Para-military Forces, or make the Defence Forces available to the State Governments to control the situation over there. Whenever a request is made, whenever a demand is made, these Forces are made available to them and then it is left to the State Government to deal with the situation in their territories. If the Government of India comes to the conclusion that it is beyond their capacity, or the situation has worsened so much that it is necessary, in which case, extraordinary steps, as provided by the Constitution are also taken.

Now, this fact, in clear terms, has to be understood by us while discussing internal security. It does not mean that the Government of India does not have the responsibility. It does not mean that it is the responsibility of the State Government alone to provide security. It means that there has to be understanding and co-operation between the Union Government and the State Governments to provide national security, internal security as well as, in some cases, maintain law and order in the States. This, in clear terms, has to be understood by all of us who are sitting here to consider the policies and who are in a position to guide the Government and the country as to how we should deal with this problem in our country. The only request which I can make on the floor of the House is that while discussing an issue of this nature we should consider what kind of importance is attached to security by our Constitution. If we study the Seventh Schedule of our Constitution, the Union List, the State list and the Concurrent list we would find that the security is the first topic which is mentioned in all the three Lists. National security is mentioned in the Union List; law and order is mentioned in the State List and criminal laws and procedures and other things are mentioned in the Concurrent List. Security comes first and then development and other issues are dealt with by the Constitution. Why I am emphasizing on this point is because these days, very rightly, we attach a lot of importance, a great importance to economic development. But if we fail to understand the importance of security that has to be provided, then it will be very difficult for us to carry on with economic development as well. So, these two issues—economic development and security—should go hand in hand.

As far as the Constitution is concerned, top priority is given to security and second priority is given to other things. It is very correct that without economic development, security cannot be provided and without security, economic development also cannot be carried on with the same spirit with which it has to be done. We may discuss this issue in any form or the other in every session—I will not quarrel with the form, which is adopted, whatever form is acceptable by the House and to the Presiding Officers and to all of us, but if we discuss it in the right form that gives us the advantage and if we just accommodate ourselves, probably, it also creates difficulties in considering this issue in a proper manner.

The only request that I have to make on the floor of the House is this. When discussing this important issue,

*Not recorded.

I would say that the first responsibility which we have to fulfil is that we should consider the policies. Policies are more important than anything else. Then we can consider the laws if it is necessary. Then we can consider the plans but if we use our time in discussing individuals and incidents, then probably it becomes very difficult to give clarifications on how one individual has conducted himself and how an incident has taken place. It is because there are thousands of pages which can be quoted against individuals and incidents and these are matters generally looked into not by the Parliament but by the courts. If this policy is followed, the debate on security is definitely going to be very useful. Fortunately for us, we have very experienced, well meaning hon. members. Once or twice, a statement here and there may be made which may not be palatable to all of us. But at the same time, they are in a position to guide the Government and the country and there is no other forum which is more important than the Parliament for discussing this issue. I am looking to the discussion on this issue from this angle.

The second point which I want to make is this. It is said that the security scenario in our country has deteriorated and that is why, we should discuss it. I have great respect for Shri Advani. If he had really felt like that, he would have quoted figures, facts and the logic to establish these facts. He has neither said that it is good nor he has said that it is bad. But he has touched upon certain points. If I am not wrong, I take this thing as something which is spoken in a very responsible manner and not in an irresponsible manner. He has not said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States is bad and the States affected by naxalites are in a bad situation. He has not done that and we respect that kind of an attitude in this argument. But my only submission is that there are other hon. Members who have said that the situation has worsened. They have said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern States has worsened and the situation in the naxalite affected States is worsening. It is not necessary for me to go into all these details to defend or to rebut the statements which they have made. The office has collected information and has given it to you. If you read this book, you will find that it gives you the correct picture. We have not said that everything is rosy and that there is no difficulty or that everything in every area is good. That is not what we have said this book. Those who have read this book have appreciated it. There are positive and negative points mentioned there. If you take both the negative and the positive points and the sum total of it, we can come to the conclusion that the

situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved like anything. What we have actually done is that we have given a graph here. At a glance you can see whether the graph is dipping or escalating. Even without reading a line, one can come to the correct conclusion. If these facts are not correct, we would correct them. But I shall give these facts. I have authenticated them and I have put them on the table of the House. These things are done in a responsible manner. I do not want to say anything more than this as far as the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is concerned. As far as the North-Eastern States are concerned, the situation has improved. Just look at the graph. The graph will show that it has not improved as it has improved in Jammu and Kashmir but it has improved to some extent. If we have to consider the situation in North-Eastern States, there are different States showing different things. Mizoram is quite peaceful and Arunachal Pradesh is quite peaceful. Tripura has shown a great improvement in the situation.

19.00 hrs.

Tripura has shown forty per cent improvement. In Meghalaya, the situation was good, but it has deteriorated a little. In Assam, the situation is fluctuating. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. It has remained nearly on the same plain. In Manipur also, which is one of the States which has caused a lot of concern to us, the situation has improved a great deal. In Nagaland, the situation was very good. But, unfortunately because of the conflicts between the tribes and between the parties over there, the situation in Nagaland has worsened a little.

If we take the sum total of the scenario in the North-Eastern States, we will be able to come to the conclusion that certainly there is a slight improvement in the situation. Definitely the situation has not worsened. I have given separate comments on the situation in different States. But if we take the sum total of it, then this is the situation.

We come to the naxal-affected states. Some naxal-affected States also have shown a lot of improvement in the situation. Andhra Pradesh was one of the worst affected States. But Andhra Pradesh has shown wonderful progress in maintaining the law and order situation over there. Here, we have given just the graphs and a glance at the graphs will show what kind of improvement has taken place in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh was wanting to talk to the leaders of the movement. But when they were requested to abjure

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violence and lay down arms and when it did not become possible, talks were terminated and some kind of action was taken and that really proved to be very effective. In Bihar also the situation has improved. In Jharkhand also, the situation has improved a little. In Orissa, the situation was very good, but it has deteriorated a little. One of the States which is worst affected is Chhattisgarh. The State of Chhattisgarh is so much affected that nearly forty per cent of the killings and seventy per cent of the incidents in all the States taken together have gone up because of the situation in Chhattisgarh. I am not blaming the State Government. Let us not think that because they belong to a different party, we are blaming them. I am not blaming them. Since action has been taken in some other States, probably the naxals might have migrated to that State and the situation has worsened there. We are going to help them and they have also said that they would be able to do their best.

It is not necessary for me to say anything more than this. The only request I will make to you is; "Please read this. Please have a glance at the graphs which we have given to you." If you think that it is not correct and it is not in line with the actual situation prevailing in the States from where you come, you tell us. If it is necessary, we will rectify them. But my opinion is that these facts and figures were compiled on the basis of the information received from the States. These are not facts and figures which we have ourselves collected from the ground. But these facts and figures are given by them. While giving these facts and figures, they have been very careful and correct.

We have to consider one point and that is the communal violence in the country. Fortunately for us, the communal situation in our country has also not worsened a great deal. There is a slight upward trend, but it has not worsened. I am saying this because otherwise, it will be quoted that Home Minister has said that the communal situation has worsened. I am not saying that. A slight upward trend is there. But one of the most important things which has happened with respect to the communal violence in the country is this. Ayodhya was attacked. In Banaras the temple was attacked. In Delhi the Masjid was attacked. In Malegaon the Masjid was attacked, and in Mumbai, the train was attacked. How did the people behave when these religious and other places were attacked? I feel very proud to put before this House that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited all these places within hours. When some of us said that we could go, she said, 'No, if you people can go why can't I'. Now, people

have started the visit to these places and looking at it from a different angle. They say what has come out of it. Let me humbly submit to this House that what has come out of the visits to these places is the confidence which is given to the people that you are not alone and you will be supported. This is why, exactly, when we went to Banaras, we met people there and came back.

I am very happy to bring it to the notice of this august House that when the Jama Masjid was attacked, we were a little worried. But the Imam of the Jama Masjid came out and said that if people in Banaras could understand why it was done, can we the people in Delhi not understand why it is done? Those who are doing it do not belong to any religion. They are the enemies of humanity. Now, when we went to Malegaon, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was there and we all were there. Shri Lalu Prasad was there in Mumbai. When we went to Malegaon, what they said was if people in Mumbai could behave responsibly, then why can we not behave in the same manner? I will tell you that they had the vehicles on the road with microphones fitted, appealing to the people to be sensible and not do anything which will create problem. This is the result of the visits. This is the result to the sympathy and this is the result of the confidence that we have. We have tried to give that confidence and fortunately it has actually happened. It goes to the understanding of the people. That is the most important thing which has happened.

I am indeed very happy that the communal situation, fortunately, in our country is controlled by the people, more than by the forces. We should salute their sanity and we should salute their understanding. This is what I have to say on communal harmony.

As against that, please do not misunderstand me, if you take up Afzal's issue in the manner in which it is being taken up, the impact of taking the Afzal issue is going to be quite contrary of the impact which has been created in these places. People are going to feel that for some ulterior motive or some other intention, it is being done. If it is avoided, we would be very grateful to all the leaders here. As far as Afzal's issue is concerned, it is not necessary to project it in the manner it is done.

While replying to the debate on the abolition of the death sentence moved by one of the hon. Members who presented the case in a wonderful manner in this House, I had given the facts and figures that during the last five years' time, only one person was hanged. Only one

person was hanged from West Bengal. We have the cases pending since 1997. We, some of us, feel very unhappy and feel in our hearts that Rajiv Gandhi case was also kept pending for nearly five years with the Government and it was not sent to the President. In the background of this, why is it necessary for all of us to come out and say "do this thing and do not do that thing." The law will take its own course. Constitutionally, we would like to deal with it. ...(*Interruptions*)

We would like to behave.

One more thing which has happened in-between is that one Supreme Court judgement has been given on this. That judgement is very pertinent. The judgement says that if the clemency is granted, whether it is granted on good grounds or not, can be looked into by the court. If it is not granted, then also it can be looked into. Granting the clemency is the responsibility of the Executive but whether it is properly granted or not, it can be looked into by the court. That is what they have said. In view of all these facts, we shall have to be very careful. Why should we, in a matter like this, show extra anxiety for somebody to be hanged? Whatever has to be done, whether we like it or not, as per the Constitution and as per the rules, can be done. But why should we say that we are going to do this thing, do that thing and develop extra constitutional pressure on those who have to give their opinion and things like that. If we develop extra constitutional pressure, we all, who are human beings, are likely to commit mistakes. That is exactly why even in the Parliament, when the matter is pending in the court, we are not allowed to discuss and we call it a *sub judice* matter. Why should we not, when somebody has to be hanged or given the death punishment, wait for some time and do it in a correct manner? My only request would be this. Please have faith and confidence in the judgement of all your colleagues here and then do not create a situation in which it would be treated in a manner which would not be useful for the unity of the country and harmony between the communities. That is the only request that I have to make before this House.

A few questions were very rightly raised by some of the hon. Members. One of the most important questions is: "What is it that you are going to do?" In fact, this is the most important part of our discussion. While criticizing also, the hon. Members have given certain suggestions. According to their views, they have given certain suggestions. We may accept them. We may not accept them. We may modify them. But all the hon. Members from all sides have given their suggestions. It is a very

important thing. It is but natural for hon. Members to try to find out as to what the Government would be doing in order to provide better security.

I am saying that the situation is under control. It has not deteriorated. It has improved. But definitely, we cannot rest on our oars. We cannot say that everything is all right and nothing more is required. That is not the case. The question is: What can be done? Very simply, very succinctly, I would like to say that we would like to strengthen the police—the Union Police and the State police. We have been requesting that we should spend more money on strengthening the police, increasing the number so that the police population ratio very soon becomes satisfactory. We are also requesting the State Government to increase the number of members over there.

The other thing is that they should be modernized. They should be well trained and their morale should be increased. That is exactly what we are trying to do.

The next thing is this. It is very rightly stated by some of the hon. Members that the crux is Intelligence. When we are dealing with the terrorists and the naxalites or terrorists of any kind, what is most important is the Intelligence. Nothing is as powerful, as useful, as efficacious as the Intelligence can be. We have decided to strengthen the Intelligence machinery at the national level and at the State level also.

We are asking that the Special Branches of Intelligence Agencies of State Governments should be strengthened in every respect, by adding more staff, by giving them technologically sophisticated equipment, by giving them better training and giving them more and more facilities. That is what are doing.

Then, we have also seen that the borders in our country do not create any hurdles for the terrorists to go from one part of the country to the other parts of the country. That is why, we are asking the State Governments that they should prepare their own plans, they should discuss these plans with each other, consult the Union Government also and we said that we would readily help them. We are saying that the benefit of modern technology should be given to them.

Sir, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and others, when they visited us, asked for very sophisticated equipment to deal with the situation in their State. We

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

readily gave them the sophisticated equipment and other things. I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Members here that they wanted helicopter service for shifting the injured persons and we provide that. They said that when police personnel go to fight against the naxalites and others, they get killed and so they should be provided with armoured vehicles and we provided them that also. Then, they wanted some equipment for collecting intelligence and we gave them. We wished them good luck in their effort. Then, I would like to submit that 36 battalions of Central forces are given to the States which are affected by naxalite problems. It is nearly 36000 men and officers which is equal to the army of a small country. This is what we have done. Not only that, but we have also said that if they are using the Para-military forces they will not be charged for three years. Previously they were being charged. They were asked to give money, but now we have taken a decision not to charge for three years.

Sir, another thing we are trying to do is to increase the police-people ratio. I was told that there were some private agencies which could help in this. We have passed the laws and if the private agencies can help and provide security to private installations and individuals, then those many people will be available for discharging governmental duties.

We are going to have good plans for providing security in mega cities, metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore etc. let the Members not think that simply because I am mentioning these cities it is only these cities which are going to have these facilities. We will be providing these facilities to other cities also.

Then we are also strengthening our policing in the desert areas. Somebody asked a question about fencing our border with Bangladesh. I have been told that this job would be completed by end of December. If it is not completed by the end of December, it may take one or two months more, but they are on the job and they will do it.

Sir, we are talking to our neighbouring countries, like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and others and we have entered into many agreements

with them for legal assistance as well as extraditions. We have also requested them to not allow free flow of funds from their territories to terrorists. Some Members have said that fighting terrorism is like a mini war or a proxy war something of that kind. If somebody uses this word, somebody else takes objection to it. If somebody say that the situation is good, then also some people take objection. But this kind of situation is developing. That is why, in international conferences we are asking these countries not to sell small sophisticated weapons and explosives to those people who do not have the permit or the permission or the licence from the Government to use them because these can be used by terrorists. Then, we were told that the development of economy is very important. Some hon. Members very rightly emphasized on this point. That is exactly why we have given a package to Jammu & Kashmir, which is equal to Rs. 24,000 crore. When we give this big number, they ask where is this money, where has this disappeared, why is it not visible to us? This money is going to be used for constructing the power stations, the roads, irrigation dams, schools, hospitals and things like that. Then, we are also trying to provide employment to the people through the plan, through the Employment Guarantee Scheme and through other schemes also.

One of the hon. Members from the North-Eastern States got up and said, keep talking to ULFA. I would like to say Government has not said that we would not talk to ULFA. What the Government is saying is that when we are talking please do not do anything which will hurt the innocent people. We are saying that if extortion is going on, it should be stopped and something of this kind. We have not stopped the discussion with ULFA. We have always said and somebody told me and quoted President Kennedy: "We will not fear to talk or we will not talk out of fear". We would talk with anybody who is willing to abjure violence, lay down the arms. But that is not the only thing on which we will be depending.

There are a few more points which I will cursorily refer and conclude my speech. The deterrent laws should be there. This was the point Shri L.K. Advani made and he has been making this point. Probably he believes in it. We do not have to quarrel with this kind of proposal if it is coming from the hon. Leader of the Opposition. We will carefully look into it. Even if we have repealed

POTA, some of the salutary provisions in POTA have been transferred into the Unlawful Activities Act and there are other laws also which can be used.

I remember a story and I have been repeating this story because it makes this very clear. There were two friends and they were hunters. One said, 'I go to hunting, I carry my gun but I do not carry the bullets. When the tiger comes, I show the gun and he dies and my job is done'. The other friend said, 'oh that is nothing, when I go hunting, I neither carry the gun nor the bullets. I carry the licence in my pocket. When the tiger comes, I show him the licence'. It is something like this. The law is required, and the law is necessary to punish, but whether the law will stop the terrorist activities is really the question. If the law is too stringent, too deterrent, it can be used and misused. Even the balanced laws have been misused and that is the only thing which we are keeping in mind. At the same time, we are trying to use these laws in a manner. What is lost by repealing the POTA was the change of onus of proof from the prosecution to the accused. That was done there, we have not said that.

Sir, the Conference was discussed a great deal. I sincerely feel that it would have been better if the Conference would not have been discussed because Conference is something which was not a public meeting, which was not meant for the media and we were following the tradition which was laid down and which is not bad also. Whatever we discussed in the Conference is not always totally secret. But if it is correctly presented, it can create good impression. But if some mistake is committed, it can create a lot of problems and it has created some problems.

I have been saying that this kind of statement I have not made. They say how does it appear? How can I explain how does it appear? You shall have to ask those who are responsible for giving that thing in the media. I can only say that I have not made it. If I have committed a mistake or giving wrong information, you can proceed against me. But how can I explain why they did it, how they did it and all those things?

In this debate, there is one thing to which I have no reply. Somebody has said something, you explain. They are not asking me that you made this statement and you explain. If they do that, then I will explain. But somebody has said something in some meeting, you explain. Something in the name Prime Minister is also said

somewhere in a foreign country, he made the statement, you explain. This kind of debate does not help. You can make a political point or you can win some applause from the people who want to make the debate and the speeches spicy but it does not take us anywhere, and it is not necessary to do so. I would very humbly say that the situation has not deteriorated, the situation has improved. I am sure that you want and I want the situation should further improve, and we will definitely go by your advice, certainly go by the advice of persons like Shri Advani ji and others also. I do not promise that everything suggested to us we will accept. But then we would attach great importance to any suggestion coming from any senior Members over here, and it will be very useful to us.

One of the most important things which I have been repeating everywhere is that the people in India, 99 per cent people in India are peace loving and their support is the most important. The second thing I am saying is that your forces, the country's forces, whether it is the Defence forces or the paramilitary forces or the State Police or the other forces which are available are so strong that we do not have to be afraid of these things. We do not want to die many times before our death. We would like to deal with this problem with confidence and we have confidence. We have confidence because we know that you have confidence and the people have confidence.

The situation may not be very comfortable but the situation is under control, and with you help and cooperation we will definitely discharge our duties, if not to the hundred per cent satisfaction of you, but certainly to the satisfaction of those who know it clearly what can be done and what cannot be done.

Sir, I do not have to say anything more than this.

19.28 hrs.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have carefully listened to the Union Home Minister. He has, at several points in his speech, expressed that he holds me in esteem, and he would like to have my cooperation, guidance, etc. I can say that it is a mutual feeling.

This Conference was held perhaps on the 22nd or 21st, I do not know, but it is almost one week back, and the entire Press in the country gave it headlines. It was not the discussion with the DGPs or the IGPs and it was

[Shri L.K. Advani]

the inaugural address formally given to the press. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The next day I contradicted it. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Have you contradicted it? No. I saw that contradiction which simply said that the reference made to the Indo-US agreement in the context of the nuclear deal is wrong. I have seen that contradiction also. Therefore, for me, the rest of the speech was the speech, and the rest of the speech in itself made me think in terms of an Adjournment Motion. I would frankly concede at this point of time the manner in which the Adjournment Motion has been moved by me does not amount to an Adjournment Motion. I would have agreed to a discussion under Rule 193 if I had been known that the entire Press report is baseless. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have said that. I have brought it to the notice. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: You have brought it to the notice of the Speaker and not to the country.

The country at large read that our installations on the coast are under threat from terrorists. The LeT operatives are trying to occupy uninhabited islands and launch an attack on the country's coast. That in itself was evident. I did not have, at that time, the advantage of this document that you have given. Today, I did not want to start with statistics to prove that the situation had worsened, though I can say that, leave aside the two terrorist-affected areas, Jammu and Kashmir and North-East, the rest of the country in all these years has not suffered so many terrorist incidents. Perhaps, someone told me that the number of deaths also in the rest of country is the highest ever in these 58 years. I may be wrong. I do not know. But I did not want to raise the issue of just statistics and on that basis come to any conclusion.

Therefore, I had wanted that this Adjournment Motion to be phrased on the basis of the speech of the Home Minister published in the Press. The moment he said that I have not said it, I dropped it. But at the same time, I think that it was a lapse on the part of the Home Ministry itself not to have contradicted what has been published in the Press apart from that little portion.

Having said that, I would like to just make one or two more points and then conclude. Firstly, I strongly hold that it is democracy and secularism which give India its present strength. If these two attributes were not there, we would not be as strong as we are. ... (*Interruptions*) I have said it earlier also. Mr. Sibal is there. Many times I have said it. I do not want to quote what I quoted at that time about Muslims in India. Why I have said? In Jammu and Kashmir also, where there are terrorists who operate, there are *jihadis* who operate, we have people coming from across the border; we have people coming from Afghanistan and even from Sudan; but we do not have people coming from here. Why? It is principally because Muslim community may be dissatisfied for very many reasons as many other communities are, but they have not come.

'The world is flat', Thomas Friedman says that Pakistan gave us 500 Al-Qaeda people to be lodged in the Guantanamo Jail. There was not even one from India. Why? He replies and says that the answer is 'context' and, in particular, "the secular democratic context of India heavily influenced by traditions of non-violence and Hindu tolerance." This is absolutely right. Therefore, when it is again and again said that the people of the country are not to blame, I agree. But at the same time when I blame the Government, I am thinking not in terms of statistics but I am thinking in terms of the message sent by many of our statements many of utterances, many of our decisions, and in which I include even the scrapping of POTA. It is a message that goes that these people are not concerned.

Do you think that POTA or TADA make us a police State? If that is so, almost all democracies of the world would have become police States.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No, it is not true. I do not agree to that. There are situations where such extraordinary powers assumed by the State are justified. If this is not justified, what else is this?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I did not say that. I said that you talked about police being given more teeth; you talked about deterrent law; you talked about TADA; and you talked about POTA. Never in your speech, you mentioned democracy and people. Therefore, I concluded that you wanted a police State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Very good.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I request the hon. Leader of the Opposition not to yield anymore.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But not to the Leader of the House who is here. I have with me a statement of October 18, which says that there is no apparent change in Pakistan's support to cross border terrorism not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also in other parts of the country.

He added: "Occasional restrictions placed on terrorist groups by Pakistan remained cosmetic and reversible. Terrorist training and communication infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir are in tact".

Now, this is the reason why I would like to emphasise and appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that you have to think in terms of this joint mechanism. Firstly, I am extremely skeptical about the wisdom of this approach - a joint Indo-Pak mechanism to deal with terrorism. It evokes as much cynicism as the hon. Prime Minister's statement that Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism. It does not carry conviction with the world as to what are they doing if they are really sincere about it. We were telling the other powers, Western Powers, the EU, Britain and America that force them to dismantle the infrastructure in Pakistan, the infrastructure that they have created. Instead we say — we are going to jointly deal with terrorism.

Before you undertake this operation, I have two requests to make. Firstly, talk about this infrastructure to Pakistan itself, directly, before formalizing this arrangement. Secondly, those terrorists who have been declared absconders by Interpol, those 20 that we claim, I do not know how many of them are alive, where are they, I do not know today; but it should be our demand that they should be handed over to India.

These are steps which convey a message. We want friendship with Pakistan, but we do not want friendship in which he assumes that 'somehow Kashmir is going to come along with us. They have given me a non-paper which meets some of my objectives.' Let us see that the focus is still on terrorism so far as Indo-Pak relationship is concerned. Let us not shift from there. We must have

a composite dialogue on everything including Kashmir. But do not let terrorism go away from the focus.

Sir, there was a reference made even to me, and to Agra and to Gen. Musharraf's book. I would again like to point out one thing. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ordinarily does not issue statements of this kind. He refers to Agra after the book was published and says: "At Agra, during our talks, Gen. Musharraf took a stand that the violence that was taking place in Jammu and Kashmir could not be described as terrorism. He continued to claim that the bloodshed in the State was nothing but the people's battle for freedom. It was this stand of Gen. Musharraf that India just could not accept and this was responsible for the failure of the Agra Summit".

Having said this, I feel happy that when you said that the Constitution, in all the three Lists gives priority to security over economic development. I, therefore, wonder this UPA Government's hallmark is the Common Minimum Programme and that Common Minimum Programme does not mention anything about security except that POTA will be scrapped. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would have read the Common Minimum Programme to you if you had raised this issue. I would have read every word of it. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have read it. I know what else is written.

Therefore, it is that I am sorry to say that even though yours was the only speech in the whole debate, all others mentioned about the clemency case sent to the President, on the assumption that it is for him to decide and it is not for the Government to say anything. The fact is that you were the only person to say that it is the Executive that decides and so leave it to us, that we will decide it at the proper time and in the proper manner. In this matter also I can say that Article 72 is the Article which gives the President the power to grant pardons etc. and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases. Commentators on this, one of them is Shri P.M. Bakshi says that it seems a reasonable view to take that this power like other powers of the President is expected to be exercised on the advice of the Cabinet.

Further, if there is any doubt about it, then the Supreme Court removed it completely when it laid down very clearly, and said in the Kehar Singh case that:

[Shri L.K. Advani]

"The power of pardon has to be exercised by the President on the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers."

Therefore, if you were to decide it early, then it would stop the present campaign on both sides. Actually, you are really penalizing the country, and dividing the country by allowing it to go on. Further, you are accusing us of polarizing the country, which is not correct. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What is the explanation for keeping the Rajiv Gandhi file for five years. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would certainly find out the position with regard to this issue. Five years would mean that ... *(Interruptions)* I have never seen it, but when you say five years. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): How can it be that the then Home Minister did not see that file? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not indulge in giving running commentary in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Rajiv Gandhi passed away in 1991, which could mean that ... *(Interruptions)* I will certainly find out as to what has happened in that regard. But at the same time, in this particular case—when there is a division in the country, and a campaign is going on—do not forget that 13 December is fast approaching. We all again go there to pay homage to those martyrs. Had it not been for them, I hold that 13 December would have been far worse than 11 September in America. The kind of massacre that could have taken place would have destroyed democracy in the country. We owe our responsibility to the families of the martyrs also. Therefore, we should take an early decision on this issue, and not let it linger on.

This idea should be removed from the minds of everyone that it is not the President who, in his discretion, decides about it, but the President has to be guided by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Have an early meeting on this, and decide about it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHR PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There is a procedure to be followed in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is no commitment on this ground too. I feel that I cannot participate in the voting that takes place now. Therefore, I would like to leave the House.

19.41 hrs.

(At this state, Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

19.41½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are treated as laid on the Table of the House. Please maintain silence in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

(i) Need to take step to check the increasing cases of diabetes in the country

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Alongwith westernisation and globalisation, the incidence of diabetes has reached pandemic proportions. From 33 million in 2003, India is poised to uniquely but sadly become the diabetes capital of the world, with a projected 57.9 million by 2025. Almost every 5th India is a diabetic. The global diabetes drugs treatment market was valued at 3 billion dollars in 2005. Diabetes is a silent killer. It is the 4th leading cause of death by disease globally. It cannot be cured but can be effectively controlled, postponed and also prevented. A person with diabetes has a risk of heart attack equal to a person who has already had a heart attack. Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to stroke, heart attack, kidney failure, blindness, leg amputations, nerve damage and death.

*Treated as laid on the table.

Diabetes is no more an urban disease and it affects people from all socio economic States. India develop diabetes 10 to 15 years earlier than foreigners and more than 50% of the diabetes population is less than 50 years of age. Sedentary lifestyle, obesity, lack of exercise, eating high calorie refined processed food, westernised diet coupled with genetic causes are the main culprits. We need intensively focus on educating the public about active lifestyle, regular exercise or walking atleast 45 minutes, 5 times a week. Diet rich in vegetables fruits, whole grain and fibre is a must to prevent diabetes. Weight reduction with waist reduction is a must. Decreasing the waist line can increase the life line. This health education must be imparted universally to children and adults with or without diabetes. All pregnant women must be screened for diabetes as there is a high risk to the mother and child.

I urge upon the Government of India to take war like measures to tackle this massive problem from the grass root level. We need effective steps in preventing diabetes, promoting research to cure and progressive public health programmes in controlling and checking the spread of diabetes.

(ii) Need to share the profit made by ONGC with the farmers whose land was acquired by the ONGC for oil and gas exploration in Mehsana, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, the land acquired by ONGC for exploration of oil and gas in Mehsana constituency belongs to medium and small farmers, who were dependent on this land for the livelihood of their families. This land has been acquired by giving them small amount of compensation, the condition of their families is rather miserable without employment whereas ONGC is exploring oil and gas worth crores of rupees. The Government are contemplating to purchase and sell shares of ONGC. Therefore, I would request the Government that the people whose land has been acquired should be made shareholders in ONGC so that poor farmers could get some share of profits made by ONGC and can earn a living for their family.

Through the House, I would request the Government to consider this proposal sympathetically.

(iii) Need to open Regional Passport Offices at Coimbatore and Madurai in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In Tamil Nadu, there are only two Passport Offices—One at Chennai and the other is located at Tiruchirappali. Large number of people from southern parts of Tamil Nadu are applying to Trichy Passport Office for getting their passports and they are facing lot of difficulties in getting their passports. Hence the people of the State have requested to open a Regional Passport Office at Madurai but the proposal is pending with the Government.

Sir, I also want to mention here that the city of Coimbatore is fast developing next to Chennai. Tirupur is one of the textile centres located nearby and thousands of hosiery units are functioning here. Large number of people are going abroad from Tirupur, Nilgiris, Salem, Namaikal, Coimbatore and nearby areas. Every year more than 50,000 people are applying for getting passport from Chennai Regional Passport Office. During the year 2005, Chennai Regional Passport Office received 2,54,498 applications, but this year upto October nearly 2,42,289 persons had applied for passport out of which nearly 55,000 applications were from Coimbatore region only. For getting their passports, they have to travel more than 400 kms. It is time consuming and also creates unnecessary hardships for them. Moreover Coimbatore is developing as a centre for IT. Coimbatore and Tirupur are municipal corporations. Through District Passport Collection Centre at Coimbatore, last year nearly 14,000 people had applied for issue of new passports and this year upto the end of October it crossed to more than 14 thousand applications.

Hence, there is also an urgent need for opening a Regional Passport Office at Coimbatore. I shall, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to direct the authorities to open Regional Passport Offices at Coimbatore as well as Madurai at the earliest.

(iv) Need to restore land ownership rights to the Villagers of Junagarh District which was acquired by the forest Department of Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Sir, I had given the following notice under Rule 377 on 04.05.2005.

The Government of Gujarat had appointed Settlement Commissioner in the year 1962, 63, 67 regarding the revenue land acquired by the forest Department of Gujarat

[Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad]

from 47 revenue villages of Junagarh district of Gujarat for protection of sanctuary land. These Settlement Commissioners had submitted their report to Government of Gujarat in 1970 and according to that 2300 hectares of revenue land in 47 villages of Junagarh district was declared as protected forest in 1975. It was mentioned in the report of Settlement Commissioner that the right of those villagers would be kept intact whose revenue land has been acquired. The rights that has been upheld also find a mention in the report. The villagers have not been provided their due right even after 35 years of declaration of revenue land as protected forest area in 1975.

After this notice the Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests had replied through D.O. No. 10-53/2003 FC dated 22.02.2006 that Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has ordered to provide all those facilities to the villagers which are rightfully theirs. But State Government has not followed these orders. All the villagers are deprived of their right even today.

I would like to request the Government of India that State Government should be informed about the orders issued by the Ministry and be instructed to take suitable action immediately.

(v) Need to provide subsidized ration to the farmers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands through Public Distribution System

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I would like to draw the attention of this House that there has been over all failure of paddy and other vegetable crops in the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to incessant rains and water logging in certain parts of South Andaman, Middle Andaman, North Andaman and the farmers are helplessly approaching the concerned authorities but without any result. The trend of suicides by the farmers throughout the country has been noticed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where people are suffering from mental depression. Under such circumstances, it is absolutely necessary that large number of farmers who have lost their crops should be provided with the Ration Card to get the grains, wheat and rice at lower prices. Our prime concern is to save the Farmers's family. Immediate action by the Government of India in this regard is essential.

(vi) Need to include Himachali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a progressive and developing State. This hilly State has set records in the fields of basic infrastructure, modern technology, education, health, communication and social welfare but ironically Himachali Language has not been recognized at National level. Sir, Himachali language is the language of 60 lakh Himachalies. This language has a history of almost 500 years. This language was used for carrying out official work and in courts during ancient times. Old Indian medical system, books on astrology and mythological books were also translated in Himachali. Himachali poems are also available in handwritten books of Hindi. During the formation of Himachal Pradesh Himachali dominated areas of Punjab were merged in Himachal Pradesh. During the last forty years about 1500 books have been written in this language.

Sir, in view of these facts I would strongly request the Union Government to include Himachali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution so that this language could be given the honour it deserves and writers of this State can be encouraged through this language.

(vii) Need to rehabilitate the persons displaced due to acquisition of land by Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. for mining operations in Orissa

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the problem regarding rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons due to land acquisition by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

The company acquires land for mining operations under the Coal bearing Act. It takes approx 20 years for the completion of the land acquisition process. The land acquisition process in Padmavatipur, Kalamchui, Rakas and Solada Villages is still pending.

In Balanda village the mines have been fully exploited, production of coal has been fully undertaken and now mines have even been closed down. But the fact is that the rehabilitation and resettlement of the villagers has not yet been completed.

The company has still not taken any decision regarding rehabilitation of displaced persons, employment of local youth, Health, sanitation, plantation and peripheral development of the area.

The company also needs to abide by the recent rehabilitation and resettlement policy of the Government of Orissa and the decision of the Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee.

Currently, about 5000 eligible persons are waiting for appointment by MCL.

I seek the immediate intervention of the Government to ensure that justice is meted out to the affected persons whose land was acquired by the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.

- (viii) Need to instruct the banks/local authorities not to deduct the outstanding loan while disbursing new crop loan to the farmers in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra**

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): After the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Vidarbha Region and announcement of Vidarbha Package there was wave of happiness that the status of the poor farmers of this region will be improved. But after more than 9 months, due to improper implementation of the package at local level, farmers are still frustrated due to their poor financial condition, loan burden, bad crop, etc. and for these farmers there is no option but to commit suicide, that is why the suicide is still continuing in this region. The bank authorities while disbursing new crop loan to the affected farmers are deducting the outstanding amount of old loan from them. It is nowhere mentioned in the Vidarbha Package, that the outstanding amount of old loan would be deducted at the time of disbursing the new loan. It is utmost necessary to protect the affected farmers of Vidarbha Region from the whimsical attitude of bank/local authorities and issue fresh directives to the local/bank authorities not to deduct the outstanding amount to loan of the farmers while disbursing new crop loan to them.

- (ix) Shortage of LPG in Haveri district, Karnataka**

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the acute shortage of LPG in Haveri District in my Parliamentary Constituency Dharwad South (Karnataka).

Though the shortage of LPG is happening in all over Karnataka, Haveri District is most affected. Haveri is a most backward and rural district suffering with drought. Drought become an annual feature there and in this scenario, people are suffering a lot to meet their day-to-day needs. There are no factories or any income generating avenues for the people. So, when the income is less, they naturally depend cost-effective fuels for their cooking needs. Therefore, public are agitating and demanding for adequate supply of LPG there.

Government can appreciate that presently the LPG is the only viable and cost-effective fuel available for the people. If such fuel is of shortage, how can they run their day-to-day cooking needs. Moreover, there are also a shortage of number of LPG distributors to provide efficient and wide service to the local people. Particularly in Shiggaon and Hivkerur taluka in Haveri district.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps for the adequate supply of LPG and fixing up of LPG distributors there, in the public interest.

- (x) Need to provide special financial package for overall development of Hoshiarpur, Ropar and Gurudaspur districts in Punjab**

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the problems of Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Kandi and Veet Sectors of Gurdaspur districts of Punjab. People of these areas are facing a lot of difficulties. There is neither the availability of drinking water nor the irrigation facility for agriculture. The roads in these areas are in very dilapidated condition. People do not have the means of communication. Agriculture is dependent on rains and people have been facing the problem of drought for many years. There is acute shortage of resources and people do not have employment. It has become difficult for them to make both ends meet. I urge the Union Government to give special attention of these areas keeping in view the problems thereof and this area should be given special economic package so that proper development of the area could take place.

- (xi) Need to include Ajmer district of Rajasthan under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, only 5 districts of Rajasthan have been included under the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to be implemented from 01 February, 2006. For the last few years Ajmer district has been a victim of worst famine and drought due to continuous acute shortage of rain. The level of the wells has gone far below. Youth of the rural areas are facing the brunt of employment. The economic condition of farmers and workers of the district is deteriorating day by day. Due to continuous famine and drought the farmers dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry have become almost jobless as a result of which migration is taking place. The centrally located district of Rajasthan has been continuously facing famine for the last seven years. Livestock is on the decrease. The State Government has declared 1050 villages of Ajmer district as famine affected. Most of the ponds of Ajmer district are dry. In most of the areas of the district it had rained below average. Aanasagar, Faisagar and the famous Pushkar lake have depleted level of water.

There are 8 Panchayat Samitis in the rural area of Ajmer district out of which six i.e. Anrai, Bhinai, Jawaja, Pisangan, Sillora, Shrinagar comes under the dearty over-exploited category. Remaining two i.e. Kekri and Masuda come under the highly sensitive category as per the norms of ground water. Survey of ground water before monsoon shows that the level of ground water has reached to 15.90 m downwards in year 2004 in comparison to the average level of 7.79 meter in 1984. In this way the level of average ground water is receding by 41 cm per year. On the one side of Ajmer district, desert is expanding rapidly. The condition of the district is pitiable in view of production. The average holding of the 14 lakh farmers of the Ajmer district is 2.33 per hectare which is not economical. There has been decline in fertile land. The influx of water is negligible in dams and ponds.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to include Ajmer district under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme so that the farmers residing in the rural areas and dependent on farming may be provided with the employment. Ajmer district has all the eligibility criteria to be covered under the scheme.

(xii) Need to revive the closed plants to HFCL, FCL and PPCL

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): It is a matter of concern that to meet the deficit caused by inadequate domestic production, the Government has resorted to high volume of imports at high international prices. It was very much apprehended during 2002-03 that country would

soon become import dependent when all the fertilizer producing plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. at Durgapur, Barauni and Haldia, Fertilizer Corp. of India Ltd. at Sindri, Gorakhpur, Ramagundam and Talcher and Pyrites and Phosphates Chemicals Ltd. at Anihora and Saladispura were all closed down on the plea of higher production cost due to use of a costly feedstock. It is again reported that plants of Madurai Fertilizer Ltd. is also going to be closed on a similar reason. Last year about 2 million tonnes of urea was imported and during the current year the import of urea may touch an all time record level of 4.6 million tonne. The import of DAP may be close to 3 million tonnes and MDP nearly 4.0 million tonnes. It is reported that the farm gate cost of imported urea is about Rs. 13,000 per tonne as against the weighted average price of Rs. 10,500 per tonne for domestic urea. Timely decision to revive and restart all the closed plants and debottlenecking/expansion of existing capacities could have saved the situation to a great extent.

I urge upon the Government to revive and restart all the closed plants of HFCL, FCL and PPCL and give clearance to all pending proposals of debottlenecking/expansion of existing plants.

(xiii) Need to extend Matsyagandhi Express Train No.2619/2620 from Mangalore to Kannur

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): The train passengers of Kerala especially Northern part of the State are facing difficulty due to non-availability of sufficient trains especially from Mangalore to Southern Kerala.

The express Train No. 2619/2620 which is running from Bangalore to Mangalore has a halting time of 10 hours in Mangalore. The distance between Kannur and Mangalore is about 150 KM, hardly two hours to cover the distance. It would be helpful to the people of Northern Kerala if the Matsyagandhi Express Train No. 2619/2620 is extended from Mangalore to Kannur.

(xiv) Need to instruct the DDA and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies to start the process of allotment of flats of Cooperative Societies not involved in any scam

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, CBI is investigating the alleged involvement of the office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the revival of a few Cooperative Societies. But the work here is at

standstill. Consequently the allotment of flats constructed by these societies is also totally at halt. The members have made payment towards its cost just to have a house or shelter by taking loans and still they are paying high installments thereof every month. They are forced to live in the rented house. Such members are facing financial crisis due to non-allotment of the flats. The Government may order DDA and the Office of the Registrar to complete the allotment of the flats for those societies which are not fraudulent.

- (xv) **Need to conduct an inquiry into the quality of material being used for construction of National Highway No. 2 between Agra and Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh.**

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Surface Transport towards the main problem of national interest and say that the construction work of National Highway No. 2 is taking place expeditiously. It is praiseworthy but the construction work between Agra and Auraiya is not at par with quality and standards due to which the life of the National Highway will not be very long.

Therefore, the hon. Minister is requested to ensure the quality and standardized work after investigating the matter at the earliest so that the construction of national property could be carried out.

- (xvi) **Need to create posts of TDM for Sitamarhi and Sheohar districts in Bihar**

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV (Sitamarhi): Sir, there is a sanctioned post of TDM in all the three districts i.e. Darbhanga, Madhubani and Samastipur and Darbhanga division of Bihar and they are functioning. Muzaffarpur Hazipur and Vaishali districts of Tirhut division have also a sanctioned post of TDM each, but a single post of TDM is not created yet in Sitamarhi on the two districts of Sitamarhi and Sheohar. Sitamarhi has all eligibility criteria for holding the post of TDM and it is also necessary in the public interest. General Manager, Muzaffarpur and Chief General Manager, Patna have also submitted a proposal in this regard and I have also written letter to the Minister of Communications so many times.

Therefore, I demand from the Government through the House that a post of TDM may be created for the district of Sitamarhi and Sheohar and a TDM be appointed there.

- (xvii) **Need to look into the functioning of Senior Citizens Home, Sandhya in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi**

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): There is a home for Senior Citizens, Sandhya in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi which is presently in a very bad shape due to negligence of NDMC. On 27.08.2003 NDMC advertised for a post of Manager in Sandhya, the age criteria kept therefore this post is between 30-50 years which is very surprising as earlier there was a tradition of mostly keeping retired personnel for the post of Manager. In this advt. It was mentioned that the post would be on contract basis for a period of one year extendable from time to time based on performance. I came across of some instances wherein I think that it is not possible for a such a young person of the age of 30 years to think, what a senior person of the age of 60 or 80 needs or how to handle a senior person, only a person of the same age group can feel or understand that. I also think that there are major irregularities in the Sandhya Senior Citizens such as bad or insufficient quantity of food or beverages, non-cleanliness of the campus, non-caring of the senior person, and so on, being a senior person of this age I can feel the hardships they are facing there. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to set-up a Secretary level Enquiry to look into the hardships of senior citizens, as they are in a constant fear, and also to enquire on the appointment of such a young manager here. I, further request the Hon'ble Minister to keep a Retired Personnel as Manager for this Senior Citizen home so that he can understand the plight of the Senior People.

- (xviii) **Need to upgrade the services of BSNL in Sunderban region of West Bengal**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the role of BSNL in Rural Telecom Sector especially in Sunderban region of West Bengal.

Canning is the gateway of Sundarbans — consisting largest delta of the planet, Tiger Reserve, dense Forests, National Park — attracting hundreds of tourists. However, the existing communication facilities provided by BSNL are not satisfactory.

The mobile facility in Canning Sub-Divisional town, which is in my Parliamentary Constituency, has no doubt improved. However, still there are problems. My experience is that as a mobile holder moves for 2 KMs

[Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal]

from Canning BSNL Mobile Tower the signals disappear. Therefore, the mobile tower at Canning town should be strengthened for the benefit of the BSNL mobile customers. Secondly, the exchange at Jeevantala under Canning Police Station should also be strengthened for the land line users.

Though WLL option is available there in rural areas, the capacity of WLL BTS should be upgraded up 1500 per BTS and the Exchange system technology itself should be upgraded. Currently most of the BTSs are overloaded but the mounting waiting list continues.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to rectify persisting problems in telecom sector in Sundarban region of West Bengal.

(xix) Need to Introduce Central Agricultural Debt Relief Legislation for providing debt relief to farmers

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The Kerala Agricultural Debt Relief Bill was presented in the Kerala Legislative Assembly in its last session. The Bill aims to provide Relief to farmers affected by crisis in the agricultural sector, resulting in their inability to repay agricultural loans availed by them. This State legislation cannot bring the Nationalized Banks under its ambit, thereby limiting its effectiveness, as a large number of farmers avail loans from Nationalised Banks.

As farmers in various States of the country are in distress, a Central legislation for providing debt relief to farmers will be more relevant and useful to the country as a whole.

I request the Government to introduce a Central Agricultural Debt Relief legislation at the earliest.

19.42 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Prices of petroleum products

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have a statement by the Minister of Petroleum, Shri Murlī Deora.

*THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, with your permission, I

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 5070/2006.

bet to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the statement regarding prices of petroleum products.

In view of the softening of prices in the international oil markets there is a widespread expectation amongst the public of a reduction in the retail prices of petrol and diesel. The Chairperson of the UPA and the President of the Congress Party, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has also drawn the attention of the Government to suitably reduce the prices of petrol and diesel for protecting the interest of the consumers in general and of vulnerable sections in particular. The Government has been receiving requests from hon. MPs for reduction in prices of petrol and diesel. In this context, the hon. Members are aware that the international crude oil prices have remained high over the last year putting a heavy burden on our economy and oil companies.

The UPA Government under the Common Minimum Programme has remained steadfast in its commitment to protect the common man and the most vulnerable sections of our society and therefore has not increased the prices of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG in last 2 years.

In order to put the least possible burden on the common man and also to protect the health of our oil Navratna companies, we have evolved a policy of equitable burden sharing to deal with the consequences of high international oil prices.

Accordingly, 87% of the burden of increased international oil prices was shared by the Government through oil bonds and the oil PSUs. Only a marginal increase in prices of petrol and diesel of Rs. 4 and Rs. 2 respectively was effected in June 2006 against the required increase of about Rs. 10/litre each. You may recall that at that time the prevailing international price was \$67/bbl for the Indian Basket of crude oil.

At the time of implementing even this marginal increase in June 2006, the Government had assured the MPs, and the public that it will keep a close watch on the international prices and would be open to a review if the prices come down and stabilize.

In August 2006, the prices touched \$75/bbl. Our burden went up. But we held the price line.

Today, the prices of international crude are in the range of \$56-58/bbl. The extent of losses/under recovery on petrol and diesel combined has come down. However,

the situation with regard to LPG and SKO continues to remain difficult as no price increases were made in these products.

Keeping the totality of circumstances in mind the Government under the guidance of hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has decided to reduce the retail selling prices (at Delhi) of petrol by Rs. two per litre, and that of diesel by Re. one per litre with effect from midnight tonight for public sector oil marketing companies.

We are maintaining a close watch on the international oil prices and accordingly will consider revision in the retail prices in future.

We continue to provide kerosene at about Rs. nine per litre with a subsidy of about Rs. 14 per litre to the most vulnerable groups. This is in line with the commitment of CMP. Further, this subsidy on fuel compliments the subsidy on foodgrains to BPL families. This Ministry is also conscious that unscrupulous elements take advantage of this subsidy to use these fuels as adulterants.

Therefore, we are pursuing anti adulteration drives and devising new schemes to ensure that the deserving beneficiaries are not deprived of their entitlements.

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it if you like. Do you want to read it?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, I have already laid it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, it is laid on the Table of the House.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 30th November, 2006, at 11 a.m.

19.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 30, 2006/ Agrahayana 9, 1928 (Saka).

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