

14

Fourteenth Series, Vol. II, No. 8

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Asadha 23, 1926 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Second Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA"**

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

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*Wednesday, July 14, 2004/Asadha 23, 1926 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had demanded special economic package. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: No, no Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to us. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Please do not do this everyday. What is it? I have no notice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Chief Minister had met the Hon'ble Prime Minister on June, 13. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you after the Question Hour. I will remember and call you after the Question Hour. Everyday this cannot happen. No, I will not allow you. I will allow you after the Question Hour. You are a very responsible Member. Please cooperate.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please, give me two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to raise the issue but after the Question Hour. Let us proceed with some order and decorum.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. So, please give me two minutes. Please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to raise the issue but after the Question Hour. Let us proceed with some order and decorum.

[*Translation*]

I shall not listen to you right now.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the Ministers of this Government Shri Shibu Soren. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Adjournment Motion is to adjourn all the business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No adjournment motion at this stage please. It has been disallowed. It can be discussed after the Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You say as to whether you accept it or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already informed that it has not been accepted.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, they have given notice of Adjournment Motion. Please say something about that.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for reminding me. Thank you for your kind cooperation, Malhotraji.

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11.02 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

+  
\*122. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to promote Agro & Rural Industries in the country;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds required for the purpose and the manner in which funds are proposed to be mobilised?

[Translation]

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

### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has identified certain important areas for promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in the country. The NCMP, *inter alia*, states that there would be a revamp of the functioning of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and new programmes would be launched for the modernization of traditional industries like coir, pottery, cottage industries, etc.

Government is already promoting Agro and Rural Industries through Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) in both urban and rural areas, programmes for development of Khadi sector etc. of these, the largest and most important programme is the Rural Employment Generation Programme, which seeks to generate additional employment in rural areas and small towns through the setting up of labour intensive industries by providing margin money support and the required forward and backward linkages. During the current financial year, Govt. has set a target of creating 5.25 lakh additional jobs under the REGP and 3.75 lakh additional jobs under PMRY.

(c) The allocation for the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries (ARI) during the 10th Plan period is Rs. 2950 crore. The Plan allocation for the current financial year is Rs. 674 crore. Besides, Finance Minister in his budget speech has provided an additional amount of Rs. 100 crore for setting up of a new fund for regeneration of traditional industries like coir, handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, leather, pottery and other cottage industries. While the above amount will be provided as budgetary assistance by the Government, it is expected that about Rs. 2100 crore will be provided by the banks for supporting the schemes of the Ministry.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that the Government have set a target of creating 5.25 lakh additional jobs under the Rural Employment Generation Programme and 3.72 lakh additional jobs under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister what blue prints have been drawn by him to achieve the targets of these plans and how the villagers and the farmers will be benefited thereby? Secondly, I would like to ask whether the introduction of the Bill proposed by the Union Government regarding Rural Employment guarantee as announced by the Minister recently is also linked to it?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. learned Member that I had recently convened a Conference of the concerned Minister and officers of all States on 25th June and the details were placed and the discussions were held in the conference with reference to what the hon'ble Member has desired to know and the figures he has furnished regarding Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna. Since both the programmes are related to the Union Government, therefore, certain eligibility criteria has been laid down for the introduction of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna and the Rural Employment Generation Programme throughout the country. I shall fulfill the desire of the hon'ble Member for completing those conditions.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked about the industry and employment but the hon. Minister has not told about the industry. My second question is whether you are going to open training centres for rural labourers and villagers through Banks or under your khadi and village industries scheme for implementing such schemes in rural areas of those states where due to increasing unemployment labourers tend to migrate from those villages? At which places have you opened these training centres so far? You are going to provide

an amount of about Rs. 2100 crores. Whoever prepares the proposal of the khadi and village industries schemes, does not get any cooperation either from here or from the States for release of funds for this purpose. Their proposals remain pending for years together. Will he also help those beneficiaries for preparing such proposals through the training centres and if so please state the location and number of such centres started by the banks?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that we are in touch with the Reserve Bank of India and other Government Banks and I shall forward the hon'ble Member the entire blue print of the provision of funds with us to the tune of Rs. 2100 crores contributed by the banks.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that though he has done a good job for promoting the rural industries, yet the budget does not contain any provision for providing special concession to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which could benefit the downtrodden and extremely backward poor people. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to separately increase the margin money for them so that the poors and dalits could be benefited by the Banks.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to tell the hon'ble Member that we want to give priority not only to the 'dalits' but also to the people belonging to the weaker sections of the backward classes and other people of similar classes as desired by him in our programme based on the Common Minimum Programme initiated by our present Government. I shall try to consider the demand of the hon'ble Member.

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, for the promotion of the agro industries in the rural areas as well as in small towns, Government is providing funds and also the margin funds but the problem is that banks are not extending cooperation. In many areas, self-groups have been organized by women. But they are not getting support from the banks. May I know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would set up empower committees district-wise to monitor this problem? Otherwise, the wishes of the Government cannot be fulfilled and targets set by the Government also cannot be achieved.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to inform the hon'ble Member that we have Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna and the Rural Employment Generation Programme so far as REGP is concerned, applicants beneficiaries contact banks directly. In addition to this, we have the boards of Khadi village Industries in the states through which they send their proposals to the centre and the banks.

Another scheme is the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana under which we accept application form of the applicant through the District Industry Officer and send it. He send it directly also through the bank. I am also aware of your concern that the extent of assistance which should be extended to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class people by the banks is not given. I am making efforts in this regard and I am in touch with the RBI and other banks and a high power Committee for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you do any monitoring?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I am coming to that point. A Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry itself has already been constituted in this regard which monitors it regularly, observation and assessment is also conducted and we proceed on the basis of that.

*[English]*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that rural artisans are not getting adequate financial support to promote handicraft and allied activities. In this regard the Central Government should give a package such as food park package to areas which can establish horticulture crops, floriculture crops, medicinal plants, processed food streams and packaged streams. The former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji had made provisions and provided amenities in the rural areas.

Will the Government have some food parks and give a financial package to help the rural artisans?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got any proposal?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request hon. Member that this matter is particularly related to food processing. So he should give notice separately then I will reply to that.

*[English]*

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, khadi is coming under the head of Rural Industry. The previous BJP-led Government had limited and considerably reduced the rebate amount given to *khadi* purchases. As we know, khadi is the symbol of unity and Independence of the nation. Besides, it gives employment to lakhs and lakhs of rural people.

May I urge upon the hon. Minister to bring back the old system of khadi rebate which was there for years together?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may say, it does not arise! ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I answer to him. Hon'ble Member is a learned man and he belongs to Tamil Nadu and I know him very well. In this connection he has asked about discount on Khadi items, a high power committee was constituted under the then hon'ble Prime Minister and according to that report twenty percent discount should be withdrawn. However, a committee was again constituted under the chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant during the tenure of previous Government. The Committee have made a provision that this should be withdrawn. I visited many states and as I have said earlier that a conference of the Ministers of states was organised on 25th June wherein it was opined that rebate which used to be available for the Khadi Industry earlier, should be continued. Sir, with your permission I would like to submit that I am considering this issue and after deliberations I will convey to the hon'ble Member as to what will be done on this issue.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, khadi udyog is an integral part of rural and village industries. My question is very

specific. I want to know whether the Government is aware that khadi udyog of Orissa is suffering because there is no silver plants to help the weavers. So, what steps are being taken to create more jobs in the rural Orissa through khadi and village industries?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated, our Government's Common Minimum Programme has given priority to creation of more and more jobs. Hon'ble Member is speaking about Orissa. In this regard, I would like to say that I am conducting a survey in Orissa in view of facts emerged in our Common Minimum Programme. We would pay special attention to Orissa to ensure further progress of Khadi or Khadi Gramodyog there.

*[English]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Earlier Rs. 2 crores were proposed for silver plant, but now the building is lying idle.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the Minister of Rural Industry that there is vast potential of agro and rural industry in Bihar. All heavy industries are now in Jharkhand state after division of the state. Whatever is left in Bihar now, has huge potential of rural industry. There is abundance of raw material especially agricultural produce and milk and human resources in Bihar. In spite of that, adequate assistance has not been provided by the Centre to neglected Bihar for the last six years. Thus Bihar has been still neglected in spite of the fact that it is one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables in the country.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I would like to ask the Minister of Small Scale Industries and Minister of Agro and Rural Industries as to whether there is any special action plan for Bihar in respect of aforesaid area? If so, kindly provide us details in this regard. If not, by when the Government are likely to introduce the scheme for this propose?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our learned Member belongs to Bihar. A lot of discussions are conducted on the issue of Bihar. He has said that nothing is being done in Bihar for the last six years. I have taken charge of this Ministry about one month and twenty days ago. I will try and look into the agro industries by conducting a survey separately for Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shrinivas, you are very articulate; please put the question straight.

SHRI SHRINIVAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, I would like to ask the Minister through you, whether the Government is aware that due to the pre-planned efforts of my leader Shri Sharad Pawar who was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the horticultural area under various fruit crops has expanded in Maharashtra? Some times due to good crops, the markets are flooded and the prices go down, and therefore, they are not in a position to get even the transport cost. May I know whether the Minister is in a position to tell us whether they are examining the possibility of having any food processing industries or any schemes for dehydration of onions, not only in Maharashtra, but wherever there are fruit crops? If yes, when are they likely to be fruitful?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not conduct survey. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can answer him straight. Do not get derailed.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I would like to say that the issue raised by hon'ble Member is related to food processing. If he gives a notice separately then I will consider it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to conduct the House. I am giving chance to the hon. Members from every Party. Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (*Panskura*): Agro-industry can absorb the problem of unemployment in a

big way, but paucity of funds stands in the way, in every respect. Even the nationalized banks do not advance money. Will the Prime Minister who is present here say that the Government will take all steps to ensure that the funds of the banks would flow unhindered to the sector of agro-industry, in order to solve the problem of unemployment and to promote more rural development? I want an assurance from the hon. Prime Minister because he is aware of the problem. The hon. Prime Minister may kindly respond to this.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate as to who should reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I would like to say to the hon'ble Member that I am worried that inconvenience is caused by the banks. I had contacted the hon'ble Prime Minister. A co-ordination committee is being constituted in this regard and we are trying to get maximum facilities. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I seek your indulgence. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what will happen to my question. Only one question has taken twenty minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you interrupt me, probably your question will not be taken up. Please have little patience. It is a very important question. This is not the way to interrupt the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the answer given by the Government is evasive. ...(*Interruptions*) Committees have been formed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it. If you are not satisfied, there are various modes open to you.

Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, please put a pointed question.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raised a pointed question but it has two parts. One is that the hon. Minister has stated about creating employment opportunities in the rural areas. We know that such type of schemes have been in operation for year that may be NREP, RSGP, SRY or that one about which you are talking. Secondly, whether the amount released is monitored by the Central Government at any stage? Are employment opportunities created as a result of funds released by the government for the above purpose? People use big machines and forge papers to show them products of small scale industries and such is forwarded to Government He knows that people can get employment at large if small scale industries are promoted. But now all those commodities, manufactured in small scale industries, are being manufactured through big machines in big factories. Therefore, small scale industries can not compete with them and they are being closed. Employment opportunities are depleting. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will make such an arrangement to ensure that big industries do not manufacture items manufactured in small scale industries.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our friend Yadav ji is a learned man. I know him. He has raised two questions. The reply to the first question is that a high level Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary is constituted in my Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that the above Committee is already there. If he has cognizance of such type of problem, he can send it to me in writing. I, alongwith him, will personally visit the spot and enquire into the matter as to what the matter is. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second part of my question has not been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Sir, the second part of my question has not at all been answered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You just cannot go on putting supplementary till you are satisfied with the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the learned Minister as to whether the Government have issued a guideline or is it clearly mentioned in the guidelines of the RBI that the bank will provide loan as per its jurisdiction? If loan seeking person does not reside within the area falling in the jurisdiction of the bank, the concerned bank will not provide loan to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not raise your voice so much.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Khadi Gramodyog have given a direction in the whole country that cases of the farmers would be dealt with in the identified banks only. Will he bring some change in this direction? He should not act only on the basis of the report of his Task Force Committee sitting in AC room. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a pointed question. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: I would like to know as to whether the other banks, within whose jurisdiction beneficiary's village is not included, will accept his such case?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this context, I would like to inform the hon. Member that a Committee has already been constituted in this regard. On the basis of this Committee we are making efforts that the other banks, which are not included in it, may deal with such cases. There is a financial rule about it. It is related to the Ministry of Finance. I will meet the Minister of Finance and make efforts to see that considers it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No further questioning.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

---

\*Not recorded.



MR. SPEAKER: I called you and you have put the question. He has answered. You cannot go on repeating until you get your answer. Apart from Shri Yerrannaaidu, nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is not in order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I bring it to order, if they do not cooperate? Shri Yerrannaaidu, you have to try your best.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, since so many years, the Government of India is promoting agro and rural industry under REGP and Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana. But they are not really taking the views of the stakeholders. In the Government of India, these decisions are taken at the Joint Secretary level without any consultation with the stakeholders. The hon. Ministers has categorically said that we are going in the new direction with a new policy.

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India would consult the stakeholders before framing the new policy.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have noted the views of the hon. Members. I will consider on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Lalji Singh. I think he is not there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving opportunity to every party because it is a very important question.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, there is potential for employment in rural areas. But the allocation made in this sector is only Rs. 640 crore for the current financial year. In a vast country like ours, is it an adequate amount for meeting the demands of our rural artisans? In my

district, thousands of weavers, handloom workers, and sericulture workers are suffering from fund constraint. They are not getting margin money. They are facing crisis. Their *udyogs* have been suspended. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would examine this issue critically and help them by releasing the margin money immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not mention your district Birbhum, West Bengal?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have noted the question of the hon. Member. I will consider this matter.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am Lal Singh. You have called Lal ji Singh. I thought who is this fellow? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Lal Singh. I thought I was respecting you by calling you Lalji.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to know from the hon. Minister that there is a Vasori village in my constituency. Khadi industry there is facing closure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would adopt that village because that village has been taking keen interest in promotion of khadi for the last thousands of years.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: I will urge upon the hon. Member to given it in writing. Thereafter, I will get it checked.

#### Indian Assistance for Resolving Maoist Problem

\*123. <sup>†</sup>SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI KHIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Nepal seeking help to resolve the Maoist problem;

(b) if so, whether the said issue was discussed during the recent visit of our Minister to Nepal; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) All issues of mutual interest and concern, including the problem of Maoist insurgency were discussed during the visit of EAM to Nepal from June 4-5, 2004. The Government of India is committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including security related cooperation, with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now-a-days Anti Indian mentality is prevailing due to which various kinds of incidents are taking place there. The schools run by the Indians and the vehicles bearing Indian number plates are being damaged.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question relates to the Maoist Problem.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, I am putting that question only.

*[Translation]*

Anti-Indian Movement launched by the Maoists is on the spurt there and the incidents of violence against the Indian are also increasing. The situation has worsened to such an extent that in the recent past, there has been firing by the Maoists along the Indian border area at Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, the Minister of External Affairs of our country had visited Nepal whether he had any discussions with the Government of Nepal on the issue of Anti Indian mindset and on the issue of violence?

MR. SPEAKER: It has been replied.

*[English]*

Mr. Minister, do you wish to say anything on this? The hon. Member wants to know whether during your meeting with them any anti-India attitude was shown or not.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Sir, I did, during my visit to Nepal earlier in the month, speak to His Majesty the King. I do not want to bring in name here now.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a sensitive matter. One should be careful and it is a question of relationship between to friendly countries.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Sir, this is a sensitive matter.

*[Translation]*

Whether the Government of India is pondering over the existing situation in Nepal and whether any efforts have been made by the Government of India to restore democracy in place of Constitutional Monarchy over there.

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, India is seriously concerned about the deteriorating internal situation in Nepal. The Nepal is our closest friend and are our immediate neighbour. The stability and security in Nepal is of paramount importance to our country as our country shares an open border of 1750 kilometers with Nepal. India has taken all possible steps to help His Majesty's Government. India also recognises the two important pillars in Nepal, namely, the Constitutional Monarchy and the Multi-party Government. India has been assisting Nepal in whatever way possible. Five States of our country, namely, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal and also Jharkhand, which is a part of the erstwhile State of Bihar, shares a border with Nepal. So, we will have to view the situation keeping in mind the implications that insurgency in Nepal might have on our country. We have evaluated all these and have taken all possible steps.

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any information about any nexus between the Maoist movement group in Nepal with any of the insurgency groups in India, particularly in the North-Eastern India.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, we have evidence that suggests that these Maoist insurgency groups has some link with the Naxalite groups like the PWG in Andhra Pradesh and the MCC in Bihar. We also have evidence that suggests that they have links with some groups, as has been mentioned by the hon. Member, in the North-Eastern India. It is also one of the concerns in India. It is in this backdrop that not only in view of our relations with Nepal but also in the best security interest of our country that we are extending whatever possible help to the Government of Nepal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated that he has had talks with

the Government of Nepal on 4th and 5th June and both the Nations are mindful of each other's interests. Right now, hon'ble Minister of State has talked of Bihar. In course of the discussion I want to know whether the central part of Bihar viz, the districts of Jehanabad, Arwal, Aurangabad and Sasaram is the centre of Maoist's activities in Nepal which has adverse impact on the rest of the country as well as Bihar. Whether the Government propose to formulate any special plan to prevent the Maoists Activities.

*[English]*

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: This is certainly a helpful suggestion. We will certainly do it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am looking at every side. Two of your party members have already asked supplementaries. Let other parties also be given a chance. Now, he is your supporter. I have given him a chance.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency is adjacent to Nepal so we are also affected by such activities. This is a very important issue. During the past few years, the Maoists have fully controlled the entire Nepal and are running their parallel Government and their counterparts based in India are badly influencing Indo-Nepal relationships. Under such situation whether the Government of India is willing to keep diplomatic ties?

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Our relationship is only with the Government there, His Majesty's Government and the multiparty system they have. For the information of the hon. Members of this House, I would like to say the steps which the Government of India has taken in helping the Government of Nepal to combat insurgency. The Government of India has stepped up the co-operation with Nepal on security issues. A Bilateral Consultative Group on security issues has been constituted to address the Royal Nepalese Army's requirement for defence equipment including weapons and ammunition, training, intelligence co-operation and any other assistance required. Patrolling has been strengthened all along the border with the deployment of SSB. A network of institutional dialogue mechanism is in place at the Central (Home Secretary) and district level border co-ordination meetings in order to discuss cross-border and other issues

including security related matters. Sir, there is one more step taken by us.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned that in your main reply.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: We are more concerned with the public of Nepal. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas, put a pointed question as it is a sensitive issue.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, through you, I want to know whether any assistance or support has been given for the Government of India to Nepal to combat insurgency. If so, I want to know the details on what kind of assistance or support has been given by the Government of India to Nepal so far.

MR. SPEAKER: You may disclose information only to the level you can disclose.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, Sir. I will say only upto that level.

From 2001-02 upto now, the Government of India has extended supplies and other assistance to the Government of Nepal to the tune of Rs. 395.71 crore. I can say that these supplies include helicopters, ammunition, mine protector vehicles and other vehicles, other military stores including INSAS 5.56 rifles.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a network to put a check on such activities in the areas adjoining Indo-Nepal border—be it Bihar or Uttar Pradesh or Assam or West Bengal. As Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs has just said that he has had talks on the 4th and 5th of June and at the same time he has stated that since this is a sensitive issue, detailed information can not be provided in this matter. However, the fact remains that, a network should necessarily be put in place to monitor such activities regularly so that Maoists activities can be controlled and the relations between India and Nepal be strengthened. I demand that such monitoring be undertaken under a diplomatic policy. The senior Supdt. of police has been posted in the bordering areas of India but there is no army along the Nepal border due to which there is absolute anarchy in its bordering areas. I would like to

know from the Hon'ble Minister whether there is any network to maintain Indo-Nepal relationship which may facilitate its monitoring from time to time?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: These are matters which cannot be disclosed on the floor of the House.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management is another bilateral forum which looks into the issues of major security concerns including the Maoist problem. That is a regular forum.

MR. SPEAKER: Details need not be disclosed. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed against Indian origin people in Nepal. My first question is what steps are being taken by the Government of India on this count. Secondly, I want to know whether there is any International Organization or ISI agency behind the violence being unleashed by the Maoists? I have reason to doubt because the weapons seized from the Maoists are made in China and the prominent leader of the Maoists belongs to China. This movement is being launched in his name only. Hon'ble Minister should clarify it.

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED: There were some attacks on Indian cargo vessels by the Maoist insurgents in various places in Nepal, in which some of our nationals were shot and seriously wounded, and several oil tankers and cargo vessels were burnt and destroyed. The Government of India had condemned the blatant attacks of terrorism and demanded that the perpetrators be apprehended and punished. The Government of India also held the leadership of Maoists responsible for the incidents. It has requested the Government of Nepal to provide full security. His Majesty, the King of Nepal also condemned the incident and assured the Government of India that they would ensure security to Indians and their properties in Nepal.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether ISI or any other international power is

providing protection or not. Hon'ble Minister has not responded to this question. He should clarify it.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: The Maoist insurgency appears to be a home grown movement. No ISI links have been discovered so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri N. Janardhana Reddy's question, nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, put your question please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The hon. Minister was telling that the Maoist insurgents in Nepal and Bihar have got links with PWG of Andhra Pradesh.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a sensitive matter. Shri Paranjpe, you are a very senior Member. You are such as helpful Member. You are so considerate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, only the second Question is going on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister was mentioning that the Maoist insurgents in Nepal have got links with the PWG of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Government has taken the naxalites into confidence and is holding talks with them. Will the Government of India also think on the same lines and hold talks with Maoist insurgents in Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of the main Question. This is with regard to Indo-Nepal matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI E. AHAMED: This question does not arise out of the main Question. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nepal is adjacent to Bihar and it is quite possible that training camps of Maoists might be operating along the border. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister how many Maoists have been nabbed during the last one year and steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check Maoists infiltration. Recently a fortnight ago two Maoists have been nabbed. Therefore, I would like to know the total number of Maoists nabbed along the border and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check infiltration.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this Question.

Next, Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale. Please put one specific question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, peace should be restored in Nepal. The Government of Nepal has also sought assistance from the Government of India in this regard. The Government of India is making efforts and extending support to put an end to the Maoists activities there. Maoist activities are on the rise in Nepal. Whether the Governments of Nepal and India have convened a meeting to eliminate the Maoist activities. Maoists activities should be checked as soon as possible. Nepal is a small country. If it has sought assistance from India, the Government of India should render its full assistance to Nepal. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered that question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: My second point is that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The second point is not there.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether Maoists have any relation with the RSS? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got any information with you?

SHRI E. AHAMED: I have only mentioned about all the possible help that we have been extending to the Government of Nepal. Even today, India is assisting Nepal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered that question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you said that you are assisting Nepal.

SHRI E. AHAMED: We are assisting Nepal ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a specific question. He wanted to know whether the Maoist Group has any relationship with the RSS. I want a specific answer for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, I have not called you to put a question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: This is not the forum to discuss that aspect. He is asking this question—Is there any relationship between the Maoist Group and the RSS? Let him answer. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will now go to the next Question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He should say 'yes' or 'no'. Let him answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for his answer. It is very unfortunate. He has not completed his answer. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He has specifically said that. How can we keep quite? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has not yet finished his answer.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: This forum cannot be used to discuss that point. ...(*Interruptions*) You have allowed him.

MR. SPEAKER: As I said earlier, he has not completed his answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to answer. What is going on? Then, I will go to the next Question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: If his question is relevant, then this Member's question is also relevant.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Earlier, when he asked about the ISI, I allowed him.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He asked about RSS? Is it relevant? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not question my decision. Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer or not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: I do not have any facts.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has no information. Shri Pathak, you are not waiting for the answer to be given. This is very unfortunate. I allowed one of them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You have allowed him to put his question.

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed the question related to ISI also. To that hon. Member's supplementary, I said that Bihar has nothing to do with that. I will not listen to you anymore. Mr. Minister, have you answered his question?

SHRI E. AHAMED: I do not have any facts.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that he has no information. Why are you getting agitated before the answer is over? The answer was not completed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You have allowed that question. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to accept my decision. Please sit down.

I go to the next Question—Q. 124. Shri Sunil Khan.

### Generation of Nuclear Power

\*124. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target of nuclear power generation fixed and achieved during the year 2003-04;

(b) whether India has large reserve of thorium; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not exploiting this reserve for nuclear power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The target of nuclear power generation for the year 2003-04 was 17,200 Million Units (MUs). The achievement was 17,783 MUs. In addition, 78 MUs were also generated from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 (RAPS-1), for which no target was fixed.

(b) India has abundant thorium resources.

(c) With a view to utilise large reserves of thorium, a three stage nuclear power programme has been envisaged. In the first stage Natural Uranium is used as fuel. From the spent fuel of the first stage, Plutonium is extracted and used as fuel in the second stage in Fast Breeder Reactors. The third stage uses Uranium-233 as fuel. Uranium-233 is produced by irradiating Thorium in nuclear reactors. Thorium by itself is not fissionable. The third stage for large scale exploitation of Thorium can be launched only after a sizable base capacity of the second stage is built up. The three stages have fuel cycle linkages and hence have to be gone through sequentially.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, the Government of India has project an ambitious target of 20,000 MW of nuclear power. In order to achieve the projected target, what is the plan and programme of the Government? This is part (a) of my question. ... (Interruptions) Part (b) of my question is that West Bengal has been identified as one of the States where nuclear power plant is to be set up. For site selection, a Committee was constituted.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, just wait for a minute. Shri Pathak, this is very unfortunate. I am trying to give opportunity for each side, for almost all the parties.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has denied it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: How can he say like that? That should be expunged. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look into this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that senior Members are obstructing this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am constrained to say that you are obstructing the proceedings of the House to the detriment of Parliament's image.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has fixed an ambitious target of 20,000 MW of nuclear power to be generated by 2020. In order to achieve the projected target, what is the plan and programme of the Government? This is part (a) of my supplementary.

Sir, part (b) of my supplementary is, West Bengal has been identified as one of the States where nuclear power plant is to be set up. For this purpose, a Site Selection Committee was constituted. They have submitted their report. I want to know from the Minister as to what is the action taken by the Union Government with regard to setting up of a nuclear power plant in the State of West Bengal... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Babbar, please take your seat. This is the highest forum of this country. Please help this House to function.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that we have fixed a target of 20,000 MW to be achieved by the year 2020. The current installed capacity is 2,770 MW. By the end of the 11th Plan we will have an installed capacity of 10,000 MW.

This is a very well thought out three-stage plan for increasing the nuclear power capacity.

As far as part (b) of his question is concerned about location of plants, I need a separate notice.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is aware that abundant deposit of uranium has been found in the district of Purulia in West Bengal. If so, how is the Government contemplating to exploit uranium for nuclear power generation?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, we have a modest deposit of uranium and we are trying to locate sources of uranium in various parts of the country. Wherever there are reports of availability of uranium deposits, the Uranium Corporation looks at it. The work is already going on in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya to develop new uranium mines.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about Purulia in West Bengal.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Whatever reports are there, we go to the prospective sites and find out the feasibility. I will give the information regarding Purulia to the hon. Member.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his answer, has stated that the nuclear power generation achievement was 17,783 million units. What is this nuclear power being used for? Is it used for generating electricity? If so, what is its per unit cost? Is the per unit cost of atomic power more than the per unit cost of power generated from other sources? Is its production economically viable? What is the Government thinking in terms of making nuclear power economically viable?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, in my reply I have said that last year we generated 17,783 million units of electricity. Nuclear power is the same power as it is generated from hydro power units or thermal power units. It is used exactly for the same purposes as that of any other power.

The cost of nuclear power generation depends on when the unit was set up. The per unit cost of the units which were set up earlier is lower than the per unit cost of the units which are being set up now, because there is a very complicated formula for calculating the depreciation and the installed cost of the units. But, on an average, the cost varies from old plants to new plants.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister as to who monitors nuclear materials? Is it the Department of Atomic Energy or is it the Ministry which monitors the quantity of nuclear materials available and how are we using them?

I would like to know, as the cost of disposal of nuclear waste is substantially high, are we on international standards and is it being safely dealt with?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, this question does not arise from the main Question. But I will just inform the hon. Member that Atomic Energy Department monitors it.

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Sir, for utilisation of thorium, the hon. Minister has stated about only one route and it is only half the story. There is another way of enriching the uranium-U-235 from centrifuge methods. Pakistan and so many other countries have got this. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they have any plans of enriching U-235 from the natural uranium by centrifuge methods. If not, are we going to develop the technology. Is there any plan to construct a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, with regard to third part I have already answered that this does not arise from the main Question. With regard to utilisation of thorium, the main thrust of the question is about thorium. We have huge deposits of thorium in the country, but thorium itself cannot be fissioned. That is why we have a very well thought out three-stage programme for Indian nuclear power generation strategy.

The first phase consists of using of natural uranium in pressurised heavy water reactor. That is the first stage, which is going on. We have 14 reactors, which are already working and six are under construction. The second phase is fast breeder reactors, which will use plutonium, which will come out of the first stage. The third stage will come when we start using thorium in breeder reactors. The third phase will only be launched when we have sufficient capacity at the second state.

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Sir, I have asked whether we can enrich the U-235 uranium.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: I cannot answer that. All I can say is that plutonium is separated from the waste fuel, which is done only at the first stage.

MR. SPEAKER: Put a specific question, he is not that much aware.

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the energy level of the thorium deposit in our country. I would also like to know as to how much energy can be generated from the existing thorium deposits and the place where thorium is being used or proposed to be used for power generation in the country. I would also like to know whether there is any scheme in this regard.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already told that one third of the total thorium deposits of the world are found in India. That means India have huge deposits of thorium. So it is very important for us to use thorium. I have just now mentioned that three stage strategy has been recently prepared in this regard. Till now we have not started its exploitation. We will utilise thorium at nursery stage only.

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, all these years we have been indiscriminately using coal and gas, which is getting depleted in the country and which can also be put to alternative uses. There used to be a proposal to start a 500 MW nuclear plant in Andhra Pradesh in 1985-86. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether now the emphasis of Government of India would be on the nuclear power to save coal, gas and other things and whether they propose to set up a plant of 500 MW in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: As I had said, for location of plants, I need a separate question. But I can tell the hon. Member that in the current plan, none of the nuclear reactors, which are under construction, is in Andhra Pradesh at the moment. We are looking at various sites depending on the availability of coal, whether power is required and the transportation cost is nominal. This is an on-going exercise. With regard to whether a plant can be located in Andhra Pradesh, we will look into it.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, we need huge energy. The Corporation has plans to make about 20,000 MW of electricity by 2020. But thorium is a product, which can help us with the fast breeder reactor technology and to address the nuclear waste issue also. Since, we have the technology and capability to do it, are we planning to increase the outlay, not just of 20,000 MW in next 15 years, but may be 40,000 MW in next 15 years considering the fact that it will address the energy security in a big way?



12.00 hrs.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I said, we have a very carefully planned and balanced three-stage plan on this. As I said, we have current installed capacity of 2770 MW. We will have 4120 MW by the end of Tenth Plan and 10,000 MW at the end of Eleventh Plan and, as you rightly said, 20,000 MW by 2020. We cannot accelerate it any further because there is a gestation period for building current Plants. Unless the current programme of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor is completed, we cannot accelerate any further because the fuel coming out of that is used for second stage and fuel coming out of second stage is used for third stage. We have a very well sequential programme. We cannot take the third stage first of the second stage before the first stage.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Schemes of Indian Council for Cultural Relations

\*125. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of schemes are being implemented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to improve cultural relations with other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details of the said schemes;

(c) the details of annual requirement of funds for the implementation of the said schemes;

(d) the number of officials working in the Council as on date;

(e) whether misuse of funds by ICCR has come to the notice of the Government;

(f) if so, the details in this regard for the last 3 years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) ICCR's mandate is to promote cultural ties with countries abroad. As part of this mandate, ICCR undertakes a number of projects which include exchange of cultural troupes, scholarships, managing Indian Cultural Centres abroad, deputation of teachers in Hindi, Yoga, Dance, Music etc., maintains Indian Chairs abroad, presentation of busts/statues of Indian leaders, books, CDs, VCDs, Audio Cassettes, musical instruments and publications. The ICCR's budget for the financial year 2004-2005 is Rs. 55.59 crores. The ICCR has plans to further expand the above-mentioned activities like assisting institutions, which run Hindi and courses on Indian studies by way of donation of books and short-term deputations of scholars from India. The actual realization of new projects will depend on additional budget.

(d) 235 officials are now working in the ICCR.

(e) to (g) The accounts of ICCR are regularly audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office. The Audit reports up to financial year 2002-2003 are available. These reports make no mention of misuse of funds.

### Rates of Telecommunication Services

126. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of various telecommunication services in the country are exorbitant in comparison to other countries;

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

(c) the current pulse rate of various telecommunication services in Russia, America, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China separately;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the rates of telecommunication services in the country; and

(e) the achievements made so far by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Telecom tariff in India in general is on the lower side internationally. However, international comparison of tariff for telecommunication services and pulse rate for such services is rendered difficult and may not be realistic because of varied tariff packages, exchange rates, differences in purchasing power and different teledensities across countries.

(c) The tariff for voice telephony for select countries available in International Telecommunication Union (ITU) report entitled "World Telecommunication Development

Report 2003" are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs is vested with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) only. However, the introduction of competition in the telecom sector, cost oriented interconnection usage charges regime and the flexibility given to service providers by TRAI in the matter of offering tariff packages in the market have led to a substantial reduction in the tariff of telecom services like local, national and international long distance calls.

**Statement**

*International Comparison*

**1. Cellular Tariffs 2003 US\$**

Country	Connection Charges (in US\$)	Per Minute Local call charges (in US\$)	
		Peak	Off-Peak
Russia	*	0.38	0.30
USA	**	0.35	0.10
Sri Lanka	10.98	0.11	0.08
Pakistan	16.73	0.10	0.10
China	**	0.07	0.07
India	03.76	0.05	0.05

**2. Telephone Tariff (fixed) 2002 US\$**

Russia	192	3.5	*
USA	42	23.4	**
Sri Lanka	131	1.8	0.03
Pakistan	31	4.4	0.02
China	*	*	*
India	16	5.1	0.02

Note: \*1. Indicates Data not available.

\*\*2. Indicates Zero or Quantity less than half the unit shown. Also used for data items that are not applicable.

Source: World Telecom Development Report (ITU)-2003.

*[English]*

**Expenditure on Health Care**

\*127. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's health expenditure is very low as compared to average spending on health care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to improve the general health care facilities in an effective way especially in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the decision proposed to be taken by the Government to raise the public expenditure on health care sector?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The expenditure on health in India, both per capita and also as a % of GDP, is lower than that of the developed countries but compares reasonably well with that of developing countries. A statement showing these details for a few select countries is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Government has been taking various steps to improve the healthcare facilities, especially in rural areas. A vast network of rural health care infrastructure is already available in the country. National disease control programmes are being implemented to control major communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health, all over the country. Assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen primary health care infrastructure. State Health Systems Projects are presently being implemented with World Bank assistance in seven states to upgrade the health infrastructure and provide quality healthcare services to the people in rural areas. Funds are also being provided under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions.

Government is committed to improving the healthcare facilities in the country. The main objective of National Health Policy, 2002, is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. Overriding importance would be given to ensuring a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country. In order to improve primary health care, the policy envisages to increase sectoral outlays in the primary sector from around 48% at present to 55%. The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages raising the public spending on health to atleast 2-3% of GDP over the next five years, with focus on primary healthcare. The steps proposed to be taken include redesigning of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme exclusively for BPL families as also enhancement in premium subsidy; introduction of new Group Health Insurance Scheme for members of Self Health Groups (SHGs) and other Credit Linked Groups (CLGs); and tax benefits for new hospitals with 100 beds or more to be set up in rural areas.

#### Statement

Country	Annual per capital total expenditure on health at average exchange rate (in US\$)	Total expenditure on health as % of GDP
U.S.A.	4887	13.9
Denmark	2545	8.4
Germany	2412	10.8
France	2109	9.6
Japan	2627	8.0
Canada	2163	9.5
Australia	1741	9.2
U.K.	1835	7.6
Malaysia	143	3.8
Thailand	69	3.7
China	49	5.5
Sri Lanka	30	3.6
India	24	5.1
Pakistan	16	3.9
Bangladesh	12	3.5
Indonesia	16	2.4
Nepal	12	5.2
Afghanistan	8	5.2

Source: The World Health Report, 2004—"Changing History"

#### Administering Expired Polio Drops

\*128. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that expired polio drops were administered to children in several parts of the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has asked for a detailed report from the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the total amount spent on polio drive campaigns during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Administration of expired Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to children has not been reported by the State Governments. However, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has intimated that during June, 2004, polio campaign, 1.95 lakhs doses of polio vaccine were rendered unfit for use because of exposure to heat due to improper storage. These vaccines were not used for polio campaign and were withdrawn at the distribution point as reported by the State Government. The State officials responsible for this negligence have been placed under suspension. Against a total supply of about 240 crores doses of oral polio vaccine distributed in the country in the last three years, this is the only reported incident of this nature.

OPV for polio campaigns is procured by UNICEF on behalf of the Government of India. OPV is released to the States from time to time for specific polio campaigns. Each batch of the vaccine is tested and certified for satisfactory potency by Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli and only thereafter the vaccine is released to the State. It is also ensured, at the time of release that there is adequate shelf life of the vaccine. Each vial (bottle) of polio vaccine has the expiry date printed on the label that is affixed on the vial.

In order to ensure that vaccines used in the field have adequately potency, Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVM) has been introduced since, 1998. The VVMs are imprinted on the labels of the vials. Change in the colour of the VVM indicates exposure of the vaccine to the higher temperature, affecting the potency of the vaccine.

The State officials and field functionaries engaged in the implementation of the polio campaigns are adequately trained not to use any vaccine for which the expiry date had passed or where the VVM colour has changed more than the accepted limit. Strict guidelines have been issued in this regard by Government of India. The operational guidelines for the immunization campaigns have clearly mentioned these instructions.

Expenditure incurred by the Government of India on polio campaigns during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (anticipated) is as under:

Year	Expenditure (OPV cost+Operational cost funds released to the States) (Rs. In crores)		
	Internal resource	External resource	Total
2002-03	13.00	419.11	432.11
2003-04 (Provisional)	80.00	579.94	659.94
2004-05 (Approved outlay)	58.00	1065.00	1123.00

#### Signing of Telecom Agreement with Sri Lanka

\*129. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the BSNL has signed a Cellular roaming agreement with Sri Lanka Telecom for promotion of Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be beneficial to both the countries; and

(d) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) BSNL has signed an Agreement for Roaming of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) Cellular Subscribers on 2nd June, 2004 with M/s. Mobitel, Sri Lanka which is the wireless communication arm of Sri Lanka Telecom.

(b) and (c) The agreement would enable post-paid GSM subscribers of BSNL and M/s. Mobitel, Sri Lanka to roam in each other's Service Areas and avail GSM services. The agreement is for indefinite time period. However, the same can be terminated, *inter-alia*, by any of the parties by written notice of six months.

(d) Presently, testing is under-way and commercial roaming is likely to start in three months time.

[*Translation*]

**Fee in Private Medical Colleges**

\*130. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the maximum limit of fee in private medical colleges is being fixed;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard;

(c) the provision being made by the Government to ensure admission of poor students in medical colleges; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The upper limit of fee chargeable from the students in the private Unaided Medical Colleges admitted against the "fee" and "payment" category of seats was being determined by the Central Government as per the scheme evolved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Unnikrishnan's case. A Constitution Bench of eleven judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgement delivered on 31st October, 2002, in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation & Ors. Vs. State of Karnataka & Ors. has held that its decision in Unnikrishnan's case, in so far as framing of a scheme relating to the grant of admission and fee fixation are concerned was not correct, and to that extent, the said decision and the consequent directions given to the UGC, AICTE and Medical Council of India, Central and State Governments etc. would stand overruled. According to the judgement dated 31st October, 2002, the unaided private institutions should adopt a rational fee structure. They would not be entitled to charge capitation fee or indulge in profiteering. There can, however, be a reasonable revenue surplus, which can be used by the educational institutions for the purpose of development of education and expansion of the institution.

The above judgement of the Supreme Court was interpreted by different parties concerned in different manners. The matter, therefore, went again before the Supreme Court for interpretation. The five judge Constitution Bench which delivered its judgement on 14th August, 2003, has clarified, *inter-alia*, that each institute shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure.

However, each State Government is required to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge to decide whether the fee proposed by the institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of capitation fee. The said Committee may approve the fee structure proposed by the institute or may propose some other fee which shall be binding on the institute for a period of three years.

As per the judgement in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation and Ors., the private unaided institutions may also have to comply with conditions, if any, requiring admission of a small percentage of students belonging to weaker sections of the society by granting them freeships or scholarships, if not granted by the Government.

[*English*]

**Revival Package for SSI Sector**

\*131. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries sector has requested the Centre to reduce the rate of interest and chalk out a revival package for the SSI sector in urban and rural areas;

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

(c) whether the SSI sector which provides the largest employment after agriculture has not been given adequate attention by the Government; and

(d) if so, the assistance proposed to be extended to this sector in order to redress their grievances in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To facilitate loans at lower rate of interest for small-scale industries (SSI) sector, the Public Sector Banks have been advised to adopt the interest rate band of 2% above and below their respective Prime Lending Rates (PLRs). For revival of sick SSI units, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed revised guidelines to the banks in January, 2002 based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, which includes *inter alia*, change in the definition of the sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, concessional finance etc. The revised guidelines will facilitate the banks to detect sickness at an early stage and take corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units.

(c) and (d) The promotion and development of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has been a conscious policy of the Government. High importance is attached to the development of this sector because of its ability to generate large-scale employment, which is next only to agriculture. While the development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of the State/UT Government through implementation of various schemes/programmes uniformly throughout the country. The major schemes implemented by the Government relate to improving the flow of credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development.

The recent initiatives taken for the promotion and development of SSIs include cluster development, enhancement of composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh, advice to banks to adopt interest rate band of 2% above and below prime lending rates, providing collateral free loan upto Rs. 25 lakh to SSI units having good track record, setting up of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) fund of Rs. 10,000 crore under SIDBI, enhancement of loan limit under Laghu Udyami Credit Card (LUCC) from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh, etc.

#### **Amendment to Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula**

\*132. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula;

(b) if so, the views of the State Governments thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to make necessary amendment in the said formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has received proposals from various State Governments to amend the existing Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula for allocating Normal Central Assistance to State Plans. There is wide divergence in the views amongst the States in this regard. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for Performance, the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for Backwardness. This issue was considered in a meeting of the Full Planning Commission held on 27th and 29th June, 2001. Since revision in the Formula requires the approval of National Development

Council (NDC), it was decided that given the difference of opinion among the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of Essential Medicines and Equipment**

\*133. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether there is huge shortage of essential medicines and equipment in the Central Government hospitals;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Generally, there is no shortage of medicines in various Central Government Hospitals, viz. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College and Sucheta Kriplani Hospital in Delhi and JIPMER, Pondicherry. In these hospitals, medicines according to formulary are distributed free of cost to patients as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential and life saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to poor patients free of cost.

These hospitals are multi-disciplinary teaching/treatment institutions having a range of treatment facilities in various speciality/super-speciality disciplines and have specialized and latest equipments for providing these treatment facilities. The upgradation of these hospitals is an on-going process as per the requirement.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and PGIMER, Chandigarh, which are super-specialized hospitals set up by an Act of Parliament, have state-of-art equipments and treatment facilities. There is no shortage of life saving and essential medicines in these Hospitals. Life saving emergency medicines are also provided to poor indoor patients free of cost.

### Clinical Trials of New Drugs

\*134. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Drug companies are using the patients/poor people in the country for clinical trials of their new drugs;

(b) if so, whether any norms/rules have been laid down by the Government for conducting clinical trials of new drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment of the clinical trials being conducted by Drug companies in violation of the laid down norms/rules;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) too (f) As per Drug regulatory norms, clinical trials involving participation of human subjects (patients) are necessary for assessing overall benefits and risks i.e. safety and efficacy of new drugs. These trials are mostly carried out in hospitals (both in public and private sector) only after approval by institutional ethics committees and regulatory approval from the competent authority as stipulated in Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules made thereunder.

Under Rule 122-D of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, it has been made mandatory that no clinical trials for new drugs whether for clinical investigation or for any clinical experiment by any institution shall be conducted except under and in accordance with appropriate permission.

Government has prescribed appropriate norms/rules for conducting clinical trials in the country under Part XA (Rule 122-A to E) and Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules which prescribed norms for pre-clinical and clinical studies has further been revised and is under publication. Under the revised Schedule Y, ethical aspects concerning recruitment of patients and their safety have been incorporated. The responsibilities of ethics committees, sponsors and clinical investigators and requirement of compliance with GCP norms have also been adequately laid down.

Guidelines on Good Clinical Practices (GCP) for conducting clinical trials in India have also been published in 2001. The ethical guidelines for biomedical research on human subjects have been published and circulated by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Phase-I clinical trial i.e. first time use of new chemical entity (NCE) on human subjects in India is not permitted for the drugs developed abroad. However, in such cases, Phase-II and Phase-III Clinical trials are permitted in the country only after strict examination of safety data generated through pre-clinical and Phase-I study in the country of origin.

[*Translation*]

### Annual Growth Rate

\*135. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for annual growth rate in the country for the coming years has been fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage increase in the annual growth rates required in agriculture, industry and service sectors to achieve the target;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to achieve the target of growth rate in each of the sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the additional funds required to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission does not fix annual targets. The targeted growth rate of GDP (at market prices) for the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8.1 per cent. The growth targets for agriculture and allied, industry and services sector (at factor cost) have been fixed at 4.0, 8.9 and 9.3 per cent respectively. Against this target, the achievements in the first two years of the Tenth Plan in these three sectors have been 1.7, 6.6 and 7.9 per cent respectively. For the economy as a whole, the growth rate has been 6.4 per cent (measured in terms of GDP at market prices).

(c) and (d) The programmes, schemes and the projects formulated for achieving the target growth rate in

each of the sector along with the required estimates of investment are given in the Tenth Five Year Plan document, which has been laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Setting up of Agro and Rural Industries in N-E

\*136. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has set up a number of Agro and Rural Industries in the North Eastern States under "Non-lapsable Central pool resource";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of units set up in the states and the funds spent on each units;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries as a result of these units, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is planning to further boost up this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the North Eastern Region for setting up agro and rural industries by utilizing the funds from the "Non-lapsable Central Pool Resource". Under this scheme, KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for projects above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, the rate of margin money is 30% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on the remaining cost of the project. The entrepreneur's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on a selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks.

The State-wise number of units set up funds spent and the number of beneficiaries in terms of employment generated during 2003-04 in the North Eastern Region is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Allocation under Non-lapsable Central Pool resource for North Eastern Region (NER) has been increased further from Rs. 54.12 crores during

2003-04 to Rs. 69.60 crores during 2004-05. Targets for employment generation in NER during 2004-05 under REGP have been increased as under:

Sl. No.	State/UT	Target (in number of persons)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1700
2.	Assam	25100
3.	Manipur	5000
4.	Meghalaya	5000
5.	Nagaland	2850
6.	Sikkim	1775
7.	Tripura	3600
8.	Mizoram	7475
Total		52500

In order to strengthen the agro and rural industries sector in the country, Govt. has provided an additional Rs. 100 crores as a fund for regeneration of Traditional Industries in the Country including North Eastern Region (NER).

#### Statement

*State-wise number of units, - funds utilized in terms of margin money and beneficiaries in terms of employment generated under REGP in the North Eastern Region during 2003-04*

Sl. No.	States	Number of units	Employment generated (in numbers)	Margin Money Utilised (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	32	864	52.77
2.	Assam	1223	15548	806.83
3.	Manipur	92	211	11.06
4.	Meghalaya	210	2170	121.79
5.	Mizoram	33	1173	61.10
6.	Nagaland	61	2332	117.20
7.	Tripura	244	4316	224.02
8.	Sikkim	113	449	24.66
Total		2008	27063	1419.43



[*Translation*]

### Ill Treatment of Indians in Foreign Countries

\*137. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the cases of ill treatment of Indian workers in Bahrain as reported in the Hindi daily 'Hindustan' dated June 10, 2004;

(b) if so, whether such cases have been reported from other countries as well especially Saudi Arabia;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of these workers?

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

(b) Such incidents are reported from time to time from countries where there are large numbers of Indian workers like Saudi Arabia as well as Singapore and Malaysia.

(c) Initially 24 workers of a Bahraini Company, M/s Owaineti Construction were not paid salary and overtime. After the intervention of Embassy of India and the pressure from Bahraini authorities, the Company agreed to pay outstanding dues to the workers and provide them tickets to return to India. Out of the 24 workers, one worker resumed his work, one ran away and one has returned to India. Employer agreed to repatriate the remaining 21 workers in batches and the first batch of six workers has returned to India on 09-07-2004.

(d) and (e) India's Missions/Posts take appropriate action to protect the interest of Indian workers and provide all possible assistance in such cases.

[*English*]

### Cost of Surgeries

\*138. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:  
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that high cost of surgery for heart, kidney patients, is not within the reach of common man;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of these operations;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that due to stiff competition amongst private hospitals the patients undergoing heart/kidney operations are made to take the decision of surgery without giving a chance for second opinion thus leading to unethical medical practices; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb these practices?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to provide treatment facilities for heart/kidney ailments including surgical interventions. The State Governments are providing financial assistances for treatment of poor patients suffering from major illness such as cardiac problems and renal disorders which require treatment in a super-speciality hospital and involve heavy expenditure through their respective State Illness Assistance Funds. The Central Government supplements the State Government in the form of Grant in Aid to the State Illness Fund. In central Government hospitals, including AIIMS, New Delhi and PGIMER, Chandigarh, poor patients are treated free of cost or at subsidized rates. Financial assistance is also provided to persons below poverty line for this treatment under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for which the fund is placed at the disposal of Medical Superintendents of the hospitals concerned.

In case of unethical medical practice by any doctor, the Medical Council of India or the State Medical Councils are empowered to award such punishment, as deemed necessary, including even removal of the name of any registered practitioner from the Register altogether or for a specified period as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

### Health Care for Women

\*139. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the focus of health care for women is still limited to child birth and initial period after child birth;

(b) if so, the main factors responsible for such a situation;

(c) the efforts being made to provide comprehensive health services to women; and

(d) the Central grant-in-aid provided for this purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years are more vulnerable to morbidity and mortality due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The Data provided by the Sample Registration System (SRS-1998), of the Registrar General of India indicates that the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was 407 per 100,000 live births. Based on this data, it is estimated that more than 1.1 lakh women in India die every year due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The National Population Policy Goal is to bring down Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 100 by the year 2010.

As a major supplement to the current strategies and programmes, the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme has, therefore, been addressed primarily to women in the reproductive age group to bring down the maternal mortality ratio. The interventions included in the programme are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at first referral units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), staff nurses and hiring of Anaesthetists.

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

To attend to this major problem, the State Governments have also taken several steps to provide comprehensive health care to women not only upto childbirth and in the initial post childbirth years by making adequate provision in the State budget and through the facilities of their Departments of Health & Family Welfare.

A National Cancer Control Programme for early detection and treatment of cervical and breast cancers among women is also under implementation. The National AIDS Control Programme in collaboration with the Departments of Family Welfare of Government of India and the State Governments carries out a nation wide Family Health awareness Campaign on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Infections (RTI/STI) and also provides treatment for RTI/STI during the campaign period. Evidence is also becoming available that hormonal and metabolic disorders and micronutrient deficiencies like vitamin D contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality among women particularly those in the peri and post menopausal age group. Services for these ailments are being provided through the existing hospitals and other health care facilities.

The National Population Policy, 2000, and the National Health Policy, 2002, also recognize the need to meet the specific health requirements of women in a more comprehensive manner by sensitizing, training, and equipping rural hospitals and health centres for providing increased access of women to health care.

(d) The statement indicating the state-wise release of central grant-in-aid under RCH Programme during the last three years is enclosed.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
		Kind	Cash	Total	Kind	Cash	Total	Kind	Cash	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2555.30	2338.69	4893.99	2323.85	1590.69	3914.34	2621.43	3144.73	5766.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	154.98	138.45	293.43	69.30	306.94	376.24	123.62	44.29	167.91
3.	Assam	1308.94	1286.67	2595.61	1693.10	793.03	2486.13	1640.89	1282.36	2923.25
4.	Bihar	4867.76	1842.97	6710.73	6414.17	4137.94	10552.11	7748.19	3731.31	11479.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Jharkhand	0.00	492.09	492.09	1763.39	903.73	2667.12	1858.32	1003.11	2861.43
6.	Goa	45.66	39.74	85.40	38.37	15.47	53.84	30.88	16.67	47.55
7.	Gujarat	1936.03	7880.05	9816.08	1997.67	1235.12	3232.79	2753.92	2242.49	4996.41
8.	Haryana	880.23	1324.25	2204.48	930.14	1007.50	1937.64	2071.62	1916.85	3988.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	289.97	399.21	689.18	410.80	410.41	821.21	305.12	615.29	920.41
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	442.00	569.58	1011.56	570.01	425.53	995.54	517.91	188.57	706.49
11.	Karnataka	2055.00	1835.64	3890.64	2171.42	2478.22	4649.64	1791.82	633.90	2425.72
12.	Kerala	907.88	875.88	1783.76	850.37	711.76	1562.13	702.29	605.84	1308.13
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2656.67	1530.24	4186.91	2438.18	1969.26	4407.44	4246.57	2097.69	6344.26
14.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	928.42	928.42	1413.35	476.61	1889.96	797.76	1085.25	1883.01
15.	Maharashtra	3331.47	3352.62	6684.09	4249.74	1523.07	5772.81	3211.85	3172.43	6384.28
16.	Manipur	194.66	860.86	1055.52	124.68	230.36	355.04	199.47	113.40	312.87
17.	Meghalaya	193.93	177.12	371.05	155.45	70.80	226.26	157.51	78.27	235.78
18.	Mizoram	67.31	768.29	835.60	62.91	706.38	769.29	63.20	175.98	239.17
19.	Nagaland	133.01	196.51	392.52	87.89	217.88	305.77	172.21	164.25	336.46
20.	Orissa	1655.66	2103.46	3759.12	1812.87	690.55	2503.42	1638.92	953.19	2592.10
21.	Punjab	928.38	729.69	1658.07	1174.90	275.45	1450.35	868.22	313.41	1181.62
22.	Rajasthan	2532.43	3958.24	6490.67	2234.20	3138.67	4372.87	4754.68	4119.19	8873.87
23.	Sikkim	58.36	77.49	135.85	84.02	92.90	156.92	42.72	35.10	77.83
24.	Tamil Nadu	2002.78	796.52	2799.30	1774.94	1288.45	3063.39	1108.67	783.27	1891.94
25.	Tripura	192.67	468.16	660.83	145.95	117.61	323.56	148.43	78.61	227.05
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9567.68	7284.74	16852.42	10362.28	9843.55	20205.83	13857.98	11716.92	25574.90
27.	Uttaranchal	0.00	438.04	438.04	728.41	424.61	1153.02	618.87	496.02	1114.89
28.	West Bengal	3118.51	2190.45	5308.96	3042.49	1424.30	4466.79	3907.12	3245.93	7153.04
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	18.02	151.58	169.60	20.68	13.53	34.21	24.50	25.88	50.38
30.	Chandigarh	26.81	27.57	54.38	66.83	17.04	83.87	30.94	18.80	49.74
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	13.15	19.47	32.62	9.12	6.18	15.30	44.40	3.26	47.66
32.	Daman & Diu	8.18	10.25	18.43	9.32	25.41	34.73	11.44	6.99	18.43
33.	Delhi	367.17	365.49	732.66	480.59	344.50	825.09	1283.49	566.62	1850.11
34.	Lakshadweep	10.56	11.42	21.98	220.59	16.04	236.83	6.84	7.33	14.17
35.	Pondicherry	29.13	29.17	58.30	25.08	25.85	50.93	47.76	18.02	65.77
Tota		42550.29	45499.01	88049.30	49938.86	36015.33	85952.19	59409.57	44701.21	104110.78

Figures provisional.

**Health Hazard in Kerala**

\*140. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of serious health problems including deformity in children prevailing in some villages of Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal for the assistance and compensation to the victims;

(d) if so, whether the Government has sent any team to investigate the health hazard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Dubey Committee report based on IIBT and the National Institute of Occupational Health Study have revealed the existence of endosulfan residues in human blood as the main reason for the health hazard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to protect the affected victims?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (h) National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), and Institute under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted an epidemiological studying the Padre village of Kasargod district in Kerala on the directives of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) who suo-moto took up the issue on the basis of news items about ill health in some villages in Kerala due to aerial spray of pesticide "Endosulfan" for over twenty years. The study concluded in its report of July, 2002, a possible link between the higher prevalence of various ailments including Neuro behavioral disorders, congenital mal-formation in female subjects and abnormalities related to male re-productive system in the Padre village in comparison to the reference village of Miyapavadu of Meenja Panchayat. However, the "Dubey Committee" set up by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation after taken into consideration the reports of Kerala Agriculture University, National Institute of Occupational Health, Dr. Achyuthan and Fredric Institute

of Plant Protection & Toxicology (FIPPAT), an Independent Research Institute, has concluded in report of March, 2003, that there is no link established between use of Endosulfan in Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) plantations and health problems reported in Padre village. The committee *inter-alia* recommended to conduct comprehensive, well designed and detailed health and epidemiological study in entire cashew plantation area of Kerala to ascertain the incidence of diseases in Padre *vis-a-vis* Kerala State average and also in the event of incidence of unusual health problem to determine probable factors responsible for alleged health problems. It also recommended that use of Endosulfan be continued as per provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968, but aerial spraying of Endosulfan may not be allowed in any situation including in PKC plantations to ensure full safety.

Government of Kerala has informed that the results of survey conducted by the State Government in Endosulfan spraying area and in adjacent non-spraying area show that most of the health problems like Congenital Anomalies, Mental Retardation, Infertility etc. are high in spraying areas than non spraying areas. Also, a committee of experts, constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Sivaraman, Addl. Director of Health Services of Government of Kerala conducted detailed study of various reports of previous committees and conducted field visits. The committee, in its report submitted in August, 2003 stated that it could not find out any other reason other than Endosulfan spraying to explain the reported health hazards. The State Government temporarily banned aerial spraying of Endosulfan and declared pesticide holiday for five years. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its order dated 12.8.2002 in O.P. No. 16300/01 has stayed the use of Endosulfan in the State. The State Government is also providing free treatment to those suffering from the reported problems and providing free medicine to the poor patients.

**Fake Condoms**

\*141. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported condoms pose a hazard;

(b) if so, the details of imported condoms being sold in the country;

(c) whether several units manufacturing fake condoms with foreign brands printed on them are being circulated for sale in the country;

(d) if so, whether any raids have been conducted against the manufacturers of these fake condoms; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) Imported condoms have not been found to pose hazards. Information in respect of import of condoms at port offices is given in statement enclosed.

Only one case of manufacture of condoms without due license has been reported. As per information received from Government of Delhi, their Drugs Control Department had, on the basis of intelligence reports, raided a premises in Rohini at New Delhi in November, 2002. One person was found engaged in packing of Condom strips in pouches & catch cover on machines installed at premises. He did not have the licence required under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945. Prosecution has already been launched by Drugs Inspector (I.O) in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Tis Hazari, Delhi.

**Statement**

*Details of the male condoms imported through port offices during the last 3 years*

Year	Port Office	Qty. Imported	Manufacturer
1	2	3	4
2001-2002	At Chennai	40 Gross (Samples)	a. M/s Dongkuk Tech. Co. Rubber Inds, Malaysia b. M/s Hanarum Rubber Tech SDN BHD Malaysia c. M/s Richter Rubber Tech. SDN, BHD, Malaysia
		8550 Gross (lubricated condoms)	a. M/s Hanarum Rubber Tech. SDN BHD Malaysia
	At Kolkata	47010 Gross	Out of 47010 Gross, 13510 Gross finished condoms from Malaysia, remaining in Bulk from Malaysia to Ms Polar Pharma, Orissa.
2002-2003	At Chennai	35 Gross (Samples)	a. M/s. Hanarum Rubber Tech. SDN, BHD Malaysia b. M/s Richter Rubber Tech., SDN, BHD, Malaysia
		256541 Gross (Bulk)	a. SSL Manufacturer (Thailand) Ltd., Thailand
	At Kolkata	49883 Gross	Out of 49883 Gross, 8033 Gross finished condoms from Malaysia, remaining in Bulk from Malaysia to M/s Polar Pharma, Orissa.
2003-2004	At Chennai	590842 Gross	a. M/s Ciriango Global, Spain b. M/s Richter Rubber Tech. SDN, BHD, Malaysia
	At Kolkata	111600 Gross	Bulk from Malaysia to M/s Polar Pharma, Orissa
	At New Delhi	2400 Gross	a. M/s Carex Industries Ltd., Malaysia.

*[Translation]***Export of Softwares**

950. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of softwares in rupees exported from India during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether some irregularities in the softwares export have come to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The estimates of Computer

Software and Services export from India during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
2003-04	58000
2002-03	46500
2001-02	36500

State-wise details of the software and services export are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indicated that DSQ Group of Companies, Chennai has been cautionlisted for non realization of export proceeds. RBI has decided not to decaution the above group from the Caution List and to allow writes off until clearance is received from the Enforcement Directorate.

**Statement**

Region	States/Union Territories	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		INR	US\$	INR	US\$	INR	US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
East	West Bengal	706.00	148.01	1300.00	268.60	1600.00	347.83
	Chhattlegarh	0	0	0	0	0.78	0.17
	Orissa	250.00	52.41	300.00	61.00	325.00	70.65
	<b>Region Total</b>	<b>956.00</b>	<b>200.42</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>330.58</b>	<b>1925.78</b>	<b>418.65</b>
North	Uttar Pradesh	2500.00	524.11	3100.00	640.50	3550.00	771.74
	Delhi	2300.00	482.18	2950.00	609.50	3500.00	760.87
	Haryana	290.00	607.97	3511.00	725.41	5000.00	1086.96
	Madhya Pradesh	88.00	18.45	107.00	22.11	105.00	22.83
	Punjab	70.00	14.68	70.00	14.46	190.00	41.30
	Chandigarh	15.00	3.14	31.00	6.40	50.00	10.87
	Rajasthan	45.00	9.43	47.00	9.71	150.00	32.61
	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3.00	0.62	5.00	1.09
	Uttaranchal	0	0	0.40	0.10	1.00	0.22
	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0.40	0.08	1.00	0.22
<b>Region Total</b>	<b>7918.00</b>	<b>1659.96</b>	<b>9818.90</b>	<b>2028.90</b>	<b>12552.0</b>	<b>02728.70</b>	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
South	Karnataka	11615.00	2435.01	14900.00	3078.51	19400.00	4217.39
	Tamil Nadu	5900.00	1236.90	8100.00	1673.55	8100.00	1760.87
	Andhra Pradesh	3200.00	670.86	4500.00	929.75	5650.00	1228.26
	Kerala	201.00	42.14	250.00	51.65	300.00	65.22
	Pondicherry	6.00	1.26	15.00	3.10	25.00	5.43
	Region Total	20922.00	4386.16	27765.00	5736.57	33475.00	7217.17
West	Maharashtra	6570.00	1377.36	7200.00	1487.60	982.00	2148.26
	Goa	0	0	0	0	6.00	1.30
	Gujarat	134.00	28.09	115.10	23.78	159.22	34.61
	Region Total	6704.00	1405.45	73715.10	1511.38	10047.22	2184.18
	Total	36500.00	7651.99	46500.00	9607.44	58000.00	12608.70

[English]

#### Performance of SSI Units

951. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SSI Units functioning in the country at present;

(b) the total number of SSI Units sick or closed till 2003 and the total number of employees lost their job due to closure of SSI Units; and

(c) the contribution of SSI Units in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The total number of SSI units functioning in the country as on 31.3.2004 is estimated to be 113.95 lakhs.

(b) During the survey of the registered units, conducted at the time of the 3rd All India Census of SSI Units, it was found that 39% of these units (numbering 8,87,427) were closed in the country. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 1,67,960 sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2003. Data on number of workers rendered jobless due to closure/sickness is not maintained centrally.

(c) The contribution of SSI units in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (latest available) was 6.86%, 6.68% and 6.81% respectively.

[Translation]

#### Proposals Received from Rajasthan

952. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Rajasthan pertaining to national highways and CRF;

(b) whether approval has been accorded to all the proposals;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) 13 Nos. of proposals pertaining to National Highways and 16 Nos. pertaining to CRF have been received from the State of Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) These proposals have been received only in June, 2004 and are under examination.

(d) The decision on approval of proposals can be taken only on completion of examination.

### **Typhoid Menace**

953. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Typhoid is spreading in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps to control the disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per information provided by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the number of Typhoid cases reported by the States/UTs during the year 2001, 2002 & 2003 were 4,90,195; 3,74,660 and 5,32,726 respectively. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, hygiene are some of the important causes of Typhoid. Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and treatment of typhoid is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various schemes such as Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Swajaldhara Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana-Rural Drinking Water, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention of control of outbreak of communicable diseases including typhoid.

### **Research and Development In Agriculture and Technology**

954. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount sanctioned to promote research and development in agriculture and technology in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has sanctioned funds for the aforesaid purpose during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The principal agency for promoting research in agriculture is the Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government had sanctioned Rs. 1391.39 crores in 2001-02, Rs. 1494.00 crores in 2002-03 and Rs. 1505.80 crores in 2003-04 to the DARE for research and development in agriculture. Ministry of Science and Technology is promoting science and technology in general and the Government had sanctioned Rs. 1905.45 crores in 2001-02, Rs. 2290.76 crores in 2002-03 and Rs. 2585.88 crores in 2003-04.

(b) and (c) During the current year, an allocation of Rs. 1790.41 crores have been proposed for research and development in agriculture and Rs. 2906.39 crores for promotion of science and technology.

*[English]*

### **Telephone Exchange with STD/ISD Facilities**

955. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:  
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in West Bengal during the Ninth Pan period;

(b) the number out of the above functioning at present;

(c) whether all the exchanges in the State have been provided with STD/ISD facilities and Internet services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of States which have got STD/ISD facilities and Internet Services; and

(f) the criteria adopted to provide these facilities to the States?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total 838 (Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight) telephone exchanges have been set up in the state of West Bengal during the Ninth Plan period.

(b) All the above mentioned installed exchanges are functioning properly at present.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All the 1792 Exchanges working at present in West Bengal have STD/ISD facilities and Internet services.

(e) and (f) STD/ISD and Internet facility has been made available in all the States in the country by BSNL. These facilities are provided to the customers on demand in all the exchanges.

*[Translation]*

#### **Increase in Treatment Fee**

956. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that AIIMS has raised the present treatment charges eight fold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has taken action to negate this unprecedented hike with immediate effect; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and way in which this hike is likely to affect the middle class people and general public?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Though in some cases there has been some revision/ rationalization of fees, the charges imposed on most of the common investigations have been kept at very reasonable levels and much lower than the charges prevalent in the market. In fact in a number of cases there has been a decrease in the charges. This is unlikely to put undue burden on poor patients since as per Standing Committee decision in the AIIMS, the AIIMS clinicians are authorized to grant exemption from payment of charges to such patients.

#### **Mental Disorders**

957. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of patients with mental disorders is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to take any concrete steps to check this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The number of persons with mental disorders is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and overall increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(b) and (c) During the 10th Five Year Plan, the Government has launched National Mental Health Programme with an outlay of Rs. 190 crores in order to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country; for providing community based services, strengthening the Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of medical colleges, undertake IEC activities and research and training. These measures will provide better mental health services in the country.

*[English]*

#### **Appointing of CVO in Kendriya Bhandar**

958. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar does not have a regular Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) duly appointed by CVC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the procedure that is adopted to ensure that the sale and purchase of items are carried out without irregularities and malpractices; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to appoint a regular CVO at the earliest?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Section 49 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies' Act, 2002, all powers of appointment of employees in Kendriya Bhandar vest in the Board of Directors/Chief Executive of the Society. Consequently, action to appoint a CVO will have to be taken by the Board of Directors of the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) Kendriya Bhandar has adopted a revised Purchase Policy in 2003 laying down the procedure for procurement of Grocery, Consumer, Stationery and other items with the objective of providing quality goods at reasonable and competitive prices.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the reply to (b) above.

*[Translation]*

#### Condition of Traditional and Cottage Industries

959. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the pathetic condition of traditional and cottage industries resulting in the migration of rural folks to cities in search of jobs;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check this tendency and promote rural industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Khadi and Village Industries sector consists essentially of conventional (traditional) rural cottage industries. Government have been taking steps from time to time for the promotion and development of cottage industries in the rural and backward areas and also to generate more employment opportunities through labour intensive industries. The production of village industries over the past three years has grown from Rs. 7140.50 crores for the year 2001-02 to Rs. 8126.30 crores for the year 2002-03 and further to Rs. 9263.98 crores during

2003-04, thus showing an increase of 13.8% and 14% during 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. Similarly the employment generated in the village industry sector is also showing an increasing trend while 54.16 lakhs employment were generated in the year 2001-02, it increased to 57.87 lakhs in 2002-03 and to 62.57 lakhs in 2003-04. For regeneration of traditional industries namely coir, handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, leather, pottery and other cottage industries the Government has proposed to set up a Fund with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crores.

Further, the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) all over the rural and backward areas to promote cottage industries including agro-based industries for the development of these areas and to generate more employment opportunities in the country. Under this programme Capital Subsidy in the form of Margin Money is provided at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% on the balance project cost upto Rs. 26 lakhs for setting up labour intensive industries. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. for disadvantaged sections viz. SC/ST/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill, border and tribal areas, North East Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of the remaining cost of the project upto Rs. 25 lakhs. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on a selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. The progress under REGP for the last three years is indicated below:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of Projects financed	Employment (in lakhs)
1.	2001-02	20767	3.43
2.	2002-03	21024	3.61
3.	2003-04 (P)	24747	4.70

*[Translation]*

#### Spurious Drugs in CGHS Dispensaries

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the cases regarding supply of spurious drugs in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the number of cases reported; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the firms and the employees found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) CGHS gets pre-tested drugs from its suppliers. The CGHS Medical Store Depot (MSD) randomly picks up drug samples or when complaints are received and sends them for testing. If the test report is not satisfactory, the drug is declared substandard and the CGHS MSD suspends the use of the substandard drug and informs the supplying agency and the Drugs Controller General (India) for taking appropriate action. During the current year, out of 66 samples tested 5 have been declared substandard.

The Zonal Officers of CDSCO draw samples randomly from the CGHS dispensaries from time to time to validate the quality of drugs and forward them to the testing labs for the purpose of test/analysis.

As per the feedback given by the Zonal Officers of CDSCO for the period 2003-204, 241 samples were taken for test-analysis out of which 100 samples were declared to be of standard quality, 7 samples were declared to be not of standard quality where as only one sample, which does not pertain to the CGHS, was declared to be spurious by the Govt. analyst. On receipt of the report from the Govt. analyst, CDSCO, North Zone have initiated necessary mandatory action as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder. The results of analysis of the remaining 133 samples out of 241 samples have not been received from the different Central testing laboratories.

*[English]*

#### Setting up of National Commission for SSI

961. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a National Commission for Small Scale Industries for promotion and development of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries is in the process of setting up of a National Commission to examine the problems faced by the enterprises in the unorganized/informal sector. The National Commission would, inter-alia, cover enterprises under the small scale industries including khadi, agro and rural industries, coir etc.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Establishment of Educational Grid

962. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for the establishment of educational grid across colleges and institutions and IT facilitation of Higher Education; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any proposal for the establishment of a grid across colleges and institutions. However, Education & Research Network (ERNET) India, an autonomous society of the Department of Information Technology has signed MoUs with University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), for connecting universities, engineering colleges, agricultural universities and research institutions respectively on Intranet and Internet through ERNET backbone.

#### Guidelines for Recruitment in Group 'C' and 'D'

963. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a well laid down guidelines exist for recruitment in group 'C' and 'D' cadre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are being followed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):  
(a) Yes, Sir. Guidelines exist for framing Recruitment Rules to all posts under the Central Government, including Group 'C' and 'D' posts.

(b) The Recruitment Rules are statutory in nature and are notified under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution of India. In respect of Group 'C' and 'D' posts, the administrative Ministry/Department concerned are delegated powers to frame/amend the Recruitment Rules keeping in view the guidelines issued by this Ministry. The guidelines for framing recruitment rules are with regard to educational qualifications, age-limits and other essential qualifications that may be required keeping in view the functional requirements and depending upon the method of appointment namely, promotion, direct recruitment, deputation/absorption, re-employment, short-term contract etc.

(c) and (d) This Department lays down the personnel policy of the Central Government and the responsibility for implementation of the same is with the individual Ministry/Department concerned.

#### **Telecommunication Services in West Bengal**

964. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges functioning in West Bengal at present;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges connected with Digital Microwave system in West Bengal and other States, State-wise;

(c) the number of new post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges proposed to set up in West Bengal during 2004-2005;

(d) the number of post offices being computerized in West Bengal along with names of cities and towns being included under it; and

(e) the names of the cities/towns which have been provided with speed post facilities in West Bengal during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges functioning in West Bengal at present is as under:

#### 1. Post Offices:

I. Head Post offices	45
II. Sub Post offices	1659
III. GDS Sub Post offices	333
IV. GDS Branch Post offices	1615
Total	3652

2. Telegraph offices 55

3. Telephone Exchanges 1796

(b) State-wise details of telephone exchanges connected with Digital Microwave system including West Bengal are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) No target has been fixed at present for opening post offices or telegraph offices during the year 2004-2005 in West Bengal. However, 20 telephone exchanges have been planned to be set up in West Bengal during the current financial year.

(d) All 45 H.O's and over 400 large SOs with more than two hands are proposed to be computerised and networked during the 10th Plan period, subject to availability of funds. These offices are located in all major cities and towns of West Bengal and the exact names or these sub post offices are being worked out. The names of the Head Post Offices are given in statement-II. enclosed.

(e) The names of cities and towns that have been provided with speed post facilities in West Bengal during 2003-2004 are given in statement-III enclosed.

**Statement I**

*The number of telephone exchanges connected with Digital Microwave System in West Bengal and other States*

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Exchanges on DMW system
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	320
3.	Assam	122
4.	Bihar	33
5.	Jharkhand	12
6.	Gujarat	4
7.	Haryana	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	105
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	58
10.	Karnataka	92
11.	Kerala	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	101
13.	Chhattisgarh	29
14.	Maharashtra	285
15.	Goa	Nil
16.	Nagaland	4
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	32
19.	Meghalaya	16
20.	Mizoram	34
21.	Tripura	19
22.	Punjab	Nil
23.	Orissa	6
24.	Rajasthan	38
25.	Tamil Nadu	72
26.	Uttar Pradesh:	
	(a) Uttar Pradesh (East)	308
	(b) Uttar Pradesh (West)	71
27.	Uttaranchal	36
28.	West Bengal	52
29.	Sikkim	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1862</b>

**Statement II**

*Names of Head Post Offices to be Computerised*

Sl.No.	HPO
1	2
1.	Arambagh
2.	Balurghat
3.	Barrackpore
4.	Baruipur
5.	Basirhat
6.	Belghoria
7.	Coochbehar
8.	Darjeeling
9.	Diamond Harbour
10.	Durgapur
11.	Jhargram
12.	Kalyani
13.	Kandi
14.	Krishnagar
15.	Mal
16.	Nawadwip
17.	Raghunathganj
18.	Rampurhat
19.	Ranaghat
20.	Raniganj
21.	Salkia
22.	Suri
23.	Tamluk
24.	Kolkata GPO
25.	Bara-Bazar
26.	Alipore
27.	Asansol

1	2
28.	Bankura
29.	Burdwan
30.	Howrah
31.	Jalpaiguri
32.	Midnapore
33.	Park Street
34.	Serampur
35.	Barasat
36.	Berhampore
37.	Cossipore
38.	Purulia
39.	Silliguri
40.	Tollygunge
41.	Malda
42.	Beleghata
43.	Chinsura
44.	Contai
45.	Katwa

**Statement III**

*Names of Cities/Towns which have been provided with speed post facilities in West Bengal during 2003-2004*

Sl.No.	Names of Cities/ Towns provided with speed post facility
1.	Bagdogra in Silliguri
2.	Darjeeling Bazar
3.	Ghoom
4.	Sonada
5.	Islampur
6.	Gangarampur

*[Translation]***Release of Funds for National Highways Projects**

965. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released the funds for construction of the National Highways sanctioned in the past;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the length of national Highways sanctioned for the hilly States of the country especially Uttaranchal *vis-a-vis* the funds sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the sector-wise names of the projects pending in Uttaranchal as on date alongwith the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The details of length of National Highways (NH) and funds allocated during 2004-05 for hilly states including Uttaranchal are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) One project of improvement of riding quality on NH-74 amounting to Rs. 6.72 crores and 4 periodical renewal works amounting to Rs. 4.25 crores on NH-74, NH-87 & NH-94, which were sanctioned during the year 2003-04 are still to be awarded by state PWD due to procedural delay in award of works.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of State	Total NH length (in Km)	Funds allocated to state PWD for development of NHs during 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	Funds allocated to BRO for development of NHs during 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	Total allocation during 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>North-Eastern States</b>					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	421.47	6.00	130.00	278.20
2.	Assam	2786.80	69.20		
3.	Manipur	975.82	14.00		

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Meghalaya	799.26	23.00	130.00	278.20
5.	Mizoram	915.00	22.00		
6.	Nagaland	594.41	14.00		
7.	Sikkim	40.50	0.00		
8.	Tripura	442.00	0.00		
<b>Other Hilly States</b>					
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1188.00	45.00	0.00	45.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	823.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
11.	Uttaranchal	1156.45	24.00	40.00	64.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>6986.26</b>	<b>217.20</b>	<b>180.00</b>	<b>397.20</b>

[English]

#### Committee on DNA Profiling

966. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Advisory Committee on DNA profiling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above Committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The DNA profiling Advisory Committee was recently set up under the Department of Biotechnology. The specific mandate of the committee includes assessment of infrastructure for DNA profiling facility, in the light of the crime situation in the society, as well as the need for the creation of additional facilities and up-gradation of existing laboratories and making recommendations for governmental assistance to DNA profiling related work and activities.

The Committee will also evolve uniform methods and standards to ensure quality-assured examination of DNA samples, advise on new research and development activities related to DNA profiling and securing intellectual property rights protection. It will also pave the way for setting up of a DNA data bank and enacting suitable legislation relating to DNA profiling.

[Translation]

#### Maintenance of National Highways In Uttar Pradesh

967. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has sent several proposals to the Union Government for maintenance and repairing works of national highways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to accord approval to these proposals and release the funds accordingly?

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

(b) 29 proposals amounting to Rs. 5225.37 lakh have been sent by Uttar Pradesh Government for maintenance and repairing work of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh so far in 2004-2005.

(c) Out of 29 proposals, 15 proposal amounting to Rs. 2196.44 lakh have already been sanctioned. Efforts will be made to sanction remaining proposals during the current financial year on the basis of *inter-se* priority, merit of the proposal and availability of funds.

[English]

#### Private Self-Financing Medical Colleges

968. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC guidelines on admission is applicable to private self financing medical colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the guidelines formulated for admission criteria and fixing fees in these colleges;

(d) whether the Competent Authority has recognized medical colleges in Kerala under private self financing professional colleges recently;

(e) if so, the details of the total seats available on the basis of merit for medical in the above colleges, category-wise; and

(f) the details of the fees fixed for students admitted on merit in self-financing medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per University Grants Commission, they have not framed any guidelines for admissions to private self financing medical colleges.

(d) to (f) In Kerala, no self financing private professional medical college has been given recognition by the Central Government in the recent past. However, permission has been granted by the Central Government for establishment of 6 new medical colleges in the State in Private Sector with intake of 100 seats each.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.2003 has clarified that the State Government may prescribe the percentage of seats in private professional colleges which can be filled by the Management. The remaining seats are to be filled up as per merit through the common entrance test conducted by the State Agency. The seats filled by the management are also to be filled up as per merit through a common entrance test to be conducted by the Association of all Colleges in the concerned State. In the said judgement, it has further been clarified that each institution shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure. Each State Government is required to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge to decide whether the fee proposed by the institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of capitation fee. The said Committee may approve the fee structure proposed by the institute or may propose some other fee which shall be binding on the institute for a period of three years.

#### **Handling of Containers at Paradeep Port**

969. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reversed its earlier proposal to allow Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) to handle containers at Paradeep port;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the position at present; and

(d) the views of Paradeep Port Trust thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Based on a proposal of Paradeep Port Trust (PPT), Government in November, 2003 conveyed 'in principle' approval to permit Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) to undertake container handling operation at Paradeep Port. Port after interaction with CONCOR framed outlines of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) proposed to be entered into. However, in view of the apprehensions/likely criticism from existing and potential operations at Indian ports, on the ground that CONCOR being the sole operator for transportation of containers by rail may use this position to divert cargo from one port to another, the matter was reviewed and PPT asked to invite open tenders to set up container handling facilities.

#### **Internet Service in Remote Villages**

970. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether internet service is available in remote villages; and

(b) if not, the measures proposed to be taken to extend high-speed internet service throughout the rural areas to assist tribals and rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Internet Service is feasible in remote villages on local call basis whether Telephone facility exists.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have submitted the recommendations to the Government on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband penetration which also include High speed Internet service. The recommendations are under examination by the Government.

#### **Indian Fishermen in Pakistani Jails**

971. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian fishermen particularly from Gujarat and Union territory of Daman and Diu are languishing in Pakistani jails at present;



(b) if so, the details of representations received by the Government during the last 3 years from respective members of Parliament and fishermen associations in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to secure the release of all such fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) As per available information, presently 407 Indian fishermen, including from the State of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, are under detention in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) From time to time, Government have been receiving a number of representations from the Honourable Members of Parliament and the fishermen associations, seeking early release of the Indian fishermen under Pakistan's custody.

Government have been consistently taking up the matter of early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. As a result, Pakistan released 623 Indian fishermen during the year 2003. Consular access to 268 Indian fishermen was obtained in March 2004. Their nationality has been verified, and consular access sought for the remaining fishermen.

The matter was once again taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi on 27-28 June 2004, and immediate release of all apprehended fishermen was agreed.

*[Translation]*

#### Setting up of Telephone Exchange in Jharkhand

972. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a telephone exchange under Chhatarpur block of the Palamu district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government for setting up the telephone exchange there; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A telephone exchange already exists at Chhatarpur Block Head Quarter with capacity of 344 lines and working connections of 322. There is a waiting list of 44, most of which is likely to be cleared by December 2004 by expansion of exchange capacity and laying of underground cable.

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

#### Funds Released from CRF to Punjab

973. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released from the CRF (Central Road Fund) during the last three years and the length of roads constructed and the names of districts where the roads have been constructed;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Punjab for constructing roads right from Anandpur Sahib of Ropad district to Vanga; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said roads are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The funds released from the Central Road Fund (CRF) to the State of Punjab during the last three years are as under:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lacs)
2001-02	1027.00
2002-03	5412.00
2003-04	2866.00

The length of roads sanctioned during last three years is 578 kms covering all district except Ludhiana district of Punjab amounting to 127.76 crores.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to upgrade the road from Noorpur Bedi (near Anandpur Sahib) to Garhshankar (which is a part of the road from Anandpur Sahib or Ropar district to Vanga) has been received. The proposal has not been sanctioned.

**Opening of Research Institutes**

974. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are institutes functioning in the country to do research in science subjects;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to establish more such research institutes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount likely to be incurred by the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of such institutes under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology is given in statement enclosed. A complete list of all such institutes in the country coming under various ministries is available in Directory of R&D Institutions 1999 published by Ministry of Science & Technology.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Science and Technology does not have any such proposal presently under consideration. However proposals for establishing new research institutions are taken up depending on national priorities, emerging areas of research and availability of resources.

***Statement***

S.No.	State	No. of Institutions	Name of the Institution
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and new Materials, Hyderabad.
2.	Delhi	03	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, Vigyan Prasar, Delhi.
3.	Kerala	01	Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
4.	Karnataka	04	Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore
5.	Maharashtra	03	Agarkar Research Institute, Pune, Indian Institute Tropical Meteorology, Pune, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai.
6.	West Bengal	03	Bose Institute, Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata.
7.	Uttar Pradesh	01	Birbal Sahni Institute for Palaeobotany, Lucknow
8.	Uttaranchal	02	Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences, Nainital.

*[English]*

**International Agreement on Asian Highway Network**

975. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether India has signed a historical international agreement for completing 140,000 km. Asian highway network;

(b) if so, whether apart from India, countries such as Pakistan, China, South Korea and Vietnam signed the agreement at the ministerial segment of the 60th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific;

(c) if so, the details of the said agreement alongwith the benefits thereof; and

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) during the 60th Annual Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), held in April, 2004, India, along with 25 other countries including Pakistan, China, Republic of Korea and Vietnam, has signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network. The total length of Network is more than 1,40,000 km.

(c) The objectives of the Inter-Governmental Agreement are formalization of the Asian Highway Network, coordinated development of Asian Highways, review mechanism for the routes, design standards and signs. The Agreement includes, *inter-alia*, the Asian Highway routes, classification and design standards, signages of the routes, procedure for amendment of text and annexures, denunciation and cessation of validity of the agreement, settlement of disputes etc. This agreement will lead to coordinated development of Asian Highway routes within the country to a minimum specified standard, which will in turn develop international tourism, trade, transport and commerce.

(d) No specific timeframe for completion of works has been stipulated in the Agreement.

[*Translation*]

#### **Financial Package to Uttar Pradesh**

976. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has sought any special package for the economic development of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in his letters dated 1.1.2004 and 12.6.2004 addressed to Prime Minister

has requested one time package of Rs. 2000 crore and Rs. 18,230 crore respectively for economic development of the State.

(c) No such timeframe can be given.

[*English*]

#### **Per Capita Income in States**

977. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income, State-wise;

(b) whether there is disparity among States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase per capita income of the country and to reduce the gap between the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Estimates of per capita Net State Domestic Product (per capita income) at current prices of various States for the year 2001-02 are given Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir. Different States have different levels of per capita income.

(c) Inequalities over the years, differences in initial infrastructure endowments, differences in development policies pursued, differences in the Programmes implementation levels and levels of community participation in development programmes, are the main reasons for regional disparities.

(d) There is a two-pronged strategy to increase the per capita income of the country namely, (i) achieving a higher growth rate of Gross Domestic product, and (ii) containment of population growth rate. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission in consultation with State Governments, has set out State-wise break up of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and poverty reduction. State specific targets take into account the potentialities and constraints present in each State and the scope for improvement in performance. The efforts of the States in this regard would be supplemented through various Special Programmes.

**Statement****State-wise Per Capita Income for the Year  
2001-02—at Current Prices**

(Rs.)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Per Capita Income*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17916
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15785
3.	Assam	11034
4.	Bihar	5445
5.	Jharkhand	9392
6.	Goa	49673
7.	Gujarat	20695
8.	Haryana	24820
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21543
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA
11.	Karnataka	17518
12.	Kerala	21310
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12027
14.	Chhattisgarh	12476
15.	Maharashtra	24248
16.	Manipur	11410
17.	Meghalaya	15070
18.	Mizoram	18467
19.	Nagaland	NA
20.	Orissa	10234
21.	Punjab	25652
22.	Rajasthan	13825
23.	Sikkim	17506
24.	Tamil Nadu	21239
25.	Tripura	17459

1	2	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9749
27.	Uttaranchal	13039
28.	West Bengal	17875
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25982
30.	Chandigarh	48974
31.	Delhi	43751
32.	Pondichery	36663
All-India Per Capita NNP		17947

Source: For Sl. No. 1-32—Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All India-Central Statistical Organisation.

\*As on 30-6-2004 NA: Not Available.

[Translation]

**Joint Operations against Terrorism**

978 SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to enter into agreements with various countries for conducting joint operations against terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such countries; and

(c) the progress made in this direction so far and the assistance proposed to be rendered to India by these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No proposals for entering into Agreements to conduct joint operations against terrorism are currently under consideration. However, the Government of India has agreements with several countries for cooperation to combat terrorism. These Agreements provide a framework for cooperation in various ways, including, *inter alia*, through exchange of information and assessments, cooperation in curbing drug-trafficking and other transnational crimes, training and capacity building.

Joint Working Groups on Border Management and other arrangements such as Home Secretary level talks provide a forum for discussion of issues relating to counter-terrorism cooperation with neighbouring countries.

#### **Swajaldhara Scheme**

979. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded its approval for spending funds in the 'Swajaldhara Scheme' of the Ministry of Rural Development from Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme so that problem of drinking water in rural areas could be solved;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the Guidelines on Swajaldhara issued by the Department of Drinking Water Supply issued in June, 2003, Swajaldhara is a participatory demand driven Scheme where funding is done by the Government of India and community. Government of India funding comes from the budget outlay earmarked for the Swajaldhara Scheme. therefore, funding from MPLADS to Swajaldhara Scheme does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Scrapping of NHDP**

980. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sadiya and Jonai in upper Assam are connected with the proposed east-west corridor;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for including them in the same;

(c) whether the Government proposes to scrap National Highways Development Programme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The alignment of NHDP including East-West/North-South corridors has been frozen. Therefore, no change in its alignment at this stage is envisaged.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Mobile Phone Service in Maharashtra**

981. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL mobile service has not been introduced so far in several districts of Nagpur zone of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the places of the said zone in respect of which the approval to introduce the above service has been given;

(d) the time by which this mobile service is likely to be started;

(e) the time by which the approval to introduce mobile services is likely to be accorded to the remaining cities/town in regard to which the above approval has not yet been given; and

(f) the reasons for delay in according the approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In accordance with the plans of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), Cellular Service has been provided at all District Head Quarters of Nagpur Zone. List of these DHQs & some of the other towns where BSNL has provided cellular service is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) to (f) BSNL has planned to expand its cellular network to cover towns upto Tehsil Head Quarters (THQ) with Cellular Service in current year programme. The name of such cities of Nagpur zone which are likely to

be provided Cellular Service during current financial year, subject to availability of equipment is given in statement-II enclosed. The remaining cities below Tehsil HQs will be considered in the future expansion programme, depending upon their business and commercial viability.

**Statement I**

*List of towns of Nagpur Zone where BSNL has provided cellular service*

Distt. H.Q.	Other towns covered
Nagpur	Butlbori, Umred, Kalmeshwar, Katol, Ramtek, Kondhali, Bazargaon, Kanhan, Mouda, Deolapar
Bhandara	Tumsar, Skoli
Gondia	Deoli
Gadchiroli	Desaiganj
Chandrapur	Ballarpur, Mul, Khambada, Chichpalli, Bharawati
Amrawati	Achalpur, Warud, Tiwasa, Badnera
Akola Washim	Murtizapur, Balapur, Borgaon manju
Buldhana	Khamgaon, Malkapur, Nandura
Yeotmal	Pusad, Wani, Ami, Mahegaon, Digrus, Kalamb, Padarkawada, Darwa, Umerkhed, Ghatanji
Nanded	Degloor, Ardhapur, Sonkhed
Parbhani Hingoli	Sellu, Jintoor, Gangahked, Basmat, Aunda, Waranga
Wardha	Hingaghat, Arvi, Samudrapur, Wadner, Karanja

**Statement II**

*List of Towns of Nagpur Zone Where BSNL has Planned Cellular Service During Current Financial Year*

Distt. H.Q.	Towns planned in 2004-05
1	2
Nagpur	Saoner, Narkhed, Kapsee, Khaparkheda, Hingna City, Bhivapur, Parseoni, Kuhi, Kampte, Khapri, Ramtek

1	2
Bhandara	Pauni, Mohada, Lakhundur, Bhandara MIDC, Jawahar Nagar
Gondia	Aamgaon, Tiroda, Goregaon, Arjuni Moregaon, Sadak Arjuni, Gondia MIDC, Salekasa.
Gadchiroli	Chamorshi, Armori, Aheri, Sironcha, Patargudem, Dhanora, Kurkheda, Itapalli, Mulchera, Bhamragadh, Korchu.
Chandrapur	Gadchandur, Rajura, Warora, Cement Nagar, Brahmapur, Chimpur, Nagbhid, Sindewahi, Godpipri, Korpana, Maujre, Sawli, Pombhurna, Jeewti
Amrawati	Dariyapur, Dhamangaon Rly, Nandgaonpur, Chandur Rly, Chikaldhara, Dharni, Batkull, Morshi, Anjangaon Surji, Chandur Bazar.
Akola	Akot, Patur, Telhara, Barsitakli.
Washim	Karanja, Risod, Malegaon, Manora Manglurpir
Buldhana	Chikhli, Lajgaon Jamod, Mehkar, Deulgaon Raja, Lonar, Motala, Sangrampur, Sindkhed Raja.
Yeotmal	Ner, Babulgaon, Ralegaon, Maregaon, Bholar, Zarizamni.
Nanded	Hadgaon, Mukhed, Dharmabad, Naigaon, Billoli, Mahur, Bhokar, Loha, Kinwat, Mufkhed, Himayatnagar, Umri, Delhitanda, Kandhar.
Parbhani	Manwat, Purna, Kalamnuri, Shenggaon.
Hingoli	Palam, Patri, Sonpeth
Wardha	Wardha MIDC, Pulgaon, Seloo, Talegaon, Ashti

*[English]*

**CGHS Beneficiaries Plagued with Difficulties**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the CGHS beneficiaries particularly the senior citizens are facing

acute difficulties with regard to having medicines and getting appointment with specialists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries and there is no shortage. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions. In case of emergency, authority slip is issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement directly from the authorised local chemist without any payment, so that the beneficiaries are not inconvenienced.

The Medical Officers in CGHS dispensaries refer the beneficiaries including pensioners for getting consultations/opinion of the CGHS/Government specialists at the Nodal centres of the respective CGHS dispensary/polyclinic or at any of the Government hospitals. CGHS beneficiaries having a basis pay/basic pension of Rs. 12,000/-or above are allowed to have direct consultation with the Government specialists.

#### **Infrastructural Facilities in Medical Colleges**

983. SHRI P.C THOMAS:  
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any project proposal for improvement of infrastructural facilities in the Government medical colleges and attached hospitals in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the present status thereof; and

(c) the total cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The proposal received from Government of Kerala for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of the Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals for World Bank funding has been examined, in consultation with

Department of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission and World Bank. Department of Economic Affairs has communicated that the present focus of World Bank funding for health sector is on disease control, primary health, family welfare and immunization. The proposal of Government of Kerala for strengthening of medical education is not in the line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the Health Sector in India.

However, a grant of Rs. 1.50 crores to Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram and a grant of Rs. 1.42 crores to Medical College, Kozhikode have been provided for strengthening of diagnostic facilities and for upgradation and strengthening of emergency services respectively during the year 2002-03.

#### **Conversion of Cuttack-Chandbali State Highway**

984. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for conversion of Cuttack-Chandbali State Highway to that of National Highway has been received from Orissa Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon and the time by which the conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Proposals for conversion of several State Roads to National Highways, including the proposal of Jagatpur (near Cuttack)-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak road having length of 152 km, were received from the Government of Orissa.

(c) In February, 2004, four State Roads of Orissa, having an aggregate length of about 403 km, have been declared as National Highways. However, the above mentioned road could not be declared as a National Highway, There is no timeframe for further declaration of National Highways.

#### **Desalination of Sea Water**

985. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has developed a cost effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce quality drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cost of drinking water so produced per litre; and

(c) the time by which this technology is likely to be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai has developed a laboratory scale desalination plant with a capacity of 500 litre per day, based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System. At present, the cost of production is approximately 90 paise per litre. However, the cost is expected to come down to 25 paise per litre, once the 1,00,000 litre per day capacity desalination plant is commissioned at field.

(c) The Low Temperature Thermal Desalination Plant is expected to be established in the Lakshadweep Islands in about one year's time.

#### **Setting up of a Coastal Shipping Development Agency**

986. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to buy 200 coastal vessels and coastal ships;

(b) if so, the funds provided for the same;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a coastal shipping development agency; and

(d) if so, the functions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Asian Co-operation Dialogue**

987. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a round of Asian Co-operation dialogue was held in China recently;

(b) if so, whether India participated in the said dialogue;

(c) if so, the details of the issues raised during the dialogue;

(d) the stand adopted by India on the issues discussed;

(e) the details of other countries which participated in the said event; and

(f) the outcome of the talks held?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Discussions during the Third ACD Ministerial Meeting focused more on organizational issues than on a dialogue on substantive issues.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 25 countries from Asia including 10 ASEAN countries—China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Iran, Kazakhstan attended the Meeting.

(f) A joint declaration on Asian Co-operation and Qingdao Initiative on Regional Co-operation on Energy Security was adopted.

*[Translation]*

#### **Works undertaken under MPLAD Scheme**

988. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works being done under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and the details of construction agencies engaged for the purpose as on date; and

(b) the details of provisions made to ensure the participation of experts and Non-Governmental Organisation for good quality construction works to be done under the said scheme?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the reports received from the District Administrations, since the inception of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in 1993 till 30.06.2004, 7,73,841 works were sanctioned out of which 6,31,385 works were completed and the remaining 1,42,456 works were under execution. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

As per Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, the Implementation Agencies can be either Government or Panchayat Raj institutions or any other reputed non-governmental organisation who may be considered by the District head as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily. However, the details in regard to the Implementing Agencies engaged for execution of works under the scheme are available with the respective District Administration.

(b) The District Administrations are competent to engage NGOs and technical experts for good quality construction works to be done under the scheme.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of Works under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (as on 30.06.2004)*

S.No.	State	Number of works sanctioned	Number of works completed	Cost of works sanctioned (Rs. in Crore)	Actual Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Nominated	3754	2953	150.76	123.23
2.	Andhra Pradesh	73575	58524	947.32	799.58
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1276	1181	48.63	46.70
4.	Assam	30423	23905	323.18	292.78
5.	Bihar	35829	28507	871.38	730.27
6.	Chhattisgarh	19467	16706	234.76	206.00
7.	Goa	588	296	45.35	35.08
8.	Gujarat	62467	53717	566.94	466.05
9.	Haryana	20525	18700	234.50	219.20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	13854	5671	101.74	95.57
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	6813	5067	125.95	94.57
12.	Jharkhand	12771	10141	252.51	199.34
13.	Karnataka	33241	24565	623.53	565.75
14.	Kerala	14198	10816	455.53	339.33
15.	Madhya Pradesh	49716	43449	645.23	578.06
16.	Maharashtra	39556	32340	1056.47	836.11
17.	Manipur	4239	3590	48.46	44.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Meghalaya	2988	2311	43.38	43.38
19.	Mizoram	2999	2950	32.06	32.06
20.	Nagaland	1141	1071	29.65	29.65
21.	Orissa	53975	42902	474.61	367.32
22.	Punjab	38654	23984	308.02	240.41
23.	Rajasthan	44281	39713	555.40	498.72
24.	Sikkim	648	586	30.01	27.61
25.	Tamil Nadu	47512	45507	915.80	872.79
26.	Tripura	964	881	47.50	40.32
27.	Uttaranchal	9338	7856	104.28	90.37
28.	Uttar Pradesh	94509	83717	1738.96	1568.07
29.	West Bengal	46286	30284	840.92	616.83
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	386	218	15.52	15.52
31.	Chandigarh	544	390	14.40	14.40
32.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	982	766	16.56	15.03
33.	Daman & Diu	513	448	14.90	14.90
34.	Delhi	5308	7016	135.50	109.66
35.	Lakshdweep	52	11	13.48	9.45
36.	Pondicherry	869	828	31.91	25.45
Total		773841	631385	12095.10	10304.22

[English]

**Strength of Class-I Officers**

989. SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of IAS, IRS, IFS and IPS officers in the country at present;

(b) their total strength five years ago; and

(c) the methodology laid down to determine strength/requirement of the said cadre 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 PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The total authorized strength of IAS, IRS, IFS and IPS officers in the country at present is 5197, 3904, 2763 and 3705 respectively. The total strength of IAS, IRS, IFS and IPS officers in the country five years ago (as on 01.01.1999) was 5124, 2911, 2736 and 3442 respectively.

(c) For the IAS, IPS and IFS, Cadre structure is to be reviewed ordinarily at an interval of every five years by the Central Government in consultation with the State

Government or the State Governments concerned under the provisions of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, IPS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 and IFS (Cadre) Rules, 1966. For the IRS, the Cadre strength is reviewed at an interval of every five years as per Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum No. 2/42/88-PP (CRD) dated 5th April, 1995.

*[Translation]*

#### **Cell Phone Service of BSNL**

990. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce cell phone of BSNL in remote areas of the country especially in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has already introduced the Cell Phone services in all the states, including Chhattisgarh and has extended its mobile services upto DHQ and important National Highways. BSNL has planned to extend the same upto Tehsil HQ during the current financial year including covering of all National Highways from where incidental coverage to some of the remote areas falling along the highways also get covered.

*[English]*

#### **Underground Used Syringes Market**

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

(a) whether there is a parallel underground used-syringes market in Delhi as reported in the 'Hindu' June 23, 2004;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government hospital staff are involved in the direct re-sale of the used syringes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Strengthening Ties with Pakistan**

992. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to issue more visas to the nationals of both countries to encourage people to people contract programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the demand of visas from nationals of both the countries in the recent past;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) Government have always supported greater people to people contacts between India and Pakistan.

The heightened interactions between the two countries in the recent past has led to an increase in the demand for visas from the nationals of both the countries.

During the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004 it was agreed that the strengths of the respective High Commissions would be restored immediately to the original level of 110. It was also agreed in principle to re-establish India's Consulate General in Karachi and Pakistan's Consulate General in Mumbai. These steps would further facilitate issuing of visas.

#### **Health Care in Tenth Plan**

993. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) the amount earmarked in the Tenth Plan to create health care facilities in the country;

(b) the allocation of fund made for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the health care facilities proposed to be created in the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) A provision of Rs. 23096 crore has been made in the Tenth Plan, including Rs. 775 crore for Indian Systems of Medicine and Rs. 12069 crore for maintenance and development of rural and urban infrastructure, which shall be utilized for creation, maintenance, and upgradation of health care facilities through implementation of various schemes.

(b) Health being a State subject, the responsibility of creation of health care facilities in the country primarily rests with the State Governments. However, the Centre supplements the efforts of the States through implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes which mainly pertain to the national disease control programmes for control of major communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health; disease surveillance; food and drug testing facilities; and grants for strengthening of rural and urban healthcare infrastructure. However, state-wise allocations under most of the centrally sponsored schemes are normally made on annual basis depending upon the performance of the states including utilization of funds allocated, the incidence of disease and proposals received from the state governments.

(c) In the X Plan, creation and upgradation of healthcare facilities is done through implementation of centrally sponsored and central sector schemes.

Under the centrally sponsored schemes, facilities under the different national disease control programmes include capacity building for diagnostic and treatment facilities and control of disease through supply of medicines, equipment, insecticides and awareness generation. Facilities under schemes relating to disease surveillance and food and drug testing essentially consist of upgradation of disease surveillance as also food and drug testing laboratories. Facilities provided under the infrastructure development schemes, both rural and urban, focus on maintenance and upgradation of the rural infrastructure and urban slum health projects. Other facilities proposed to be created include establishment of trauma centres in hospitals located on highways and

strengthening of diagnostic facilities in state medical colleges.

Through central health schemes, the central hospitals, central institutions pertaining to medical education and research, vaccine production, food and drug testing laboratories, etc. are proposed to be expanded and strengthened. Also, a scheme has been introduced in the Tenth Plan under which AIIMS type institutions are proposed to be set up in certain backward states and existing institutions of certain states are proposed to be upgraded to the AIIMS level.

*[Translation]*

#### Assistance from Indian Embassies

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

(a) whether Indians who inadvertently get stranded at foreign airports get little assistance from Indian Embassies as reported in the Hindi daily 'Nav Bharat Times' dated June 20, 2004;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

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

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Indian nationals including the persons referred to in the news item stranded at foreign airports do receive all possible assistance from the Indian Embassies.

(b) Yes.

(c) On receipt of information, an official in the Indian Embassy, Paris, coordinated with both Emirates and US Airlines and also contacted the relatives in India to request them to organise money for the purchase of tickets.

(d) Enquiry has revealed that the Embassy official rendered necessary assistance to the stranded couple.

#### Import of Drugs

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

(a) whether the Government has imported life saving drugs from foreign countries in view of their shortage in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of such drugs alongwith the manufacturing company and the countries from where these have been imported?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per the information available, the Government has not imported any life saving drugs from any foreign company on the basis of shortage of such drugs in the country.

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

[English]

#### CGHS in Assam

996. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has been extended only to Guwahati in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Assam has requested the Union Government to extend the scheme to other parts of the State; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

#### Creamy Layer among the OBCs

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

(a) whether the annual income ceiling for grant of benefits for determining creamy layer among the OBCs has recently been revised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the existing criteria in vogue for determining the grant of benefits like reservation; and

(d) the time by when the revised provision is likely to come into effect?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The income limit for determining the Creamy Layer amongst the OBCs has been revised and raised from Rs. 1.00 Lakhs to Rs. 2.50 Lakhs.

(b) The revision was based on the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes.

(c) The benefit of reservation is given to the members of the Other Backward Classes as per instructions contained in the Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8th September, 1993. Candidates from the Other Backward Classes falling in the Creamy Layer according to the Schedule to the Office Memorandum No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8th September, 1993 read with the Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum No. 3603/3/2004-Estt. (Res.) dated 9th March, 2004, are not entitled to get the benefit of reservation.

(d) The revised provisions have come into force from 4th February, 2004.

#### Indian Aid to Sri Lanka

998. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to provide humanitarian aid to help reconstruction of war ravaged North-East Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether the matter came up for discussion during the recent visit of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka to India; and

(c) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) India is committed to providing assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of North-East Sri Lanka. The subject

was raised during the recent visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister though no detailed discussions were held.

#### **Fiscal Incentives to Companies**

999. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to grant fiscal incentives to those companies which execute large infrastructure projects ahead of schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some proposals to resolve the bottlenecks in completing the projects are under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Launching of Communication Satellite**

1000. SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation is considering to launch a communication satellite in collaboration with an American Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to India from the launching of this satellite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation and Antrix Corporation are holding discussion with Boeing Satellite Systems of USA to evolve a programme to manufacture and market 2-tonne class of communication satellites globally.

(c) The teaming arrangements are still being discussed and final decisions will be subject to identification of suitable customers in the international market.

(d) The team arrangement is expected to provide market access for ISRO developed satellite technology in the highly competitive market.

*[Translation]*

#### **Telephone Connections to Senior Citizens**

1001. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare separate waiting list for providing immediate telephone connections to senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for providing such telephone connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present to maintain a separate waiting list for senior citizens. However, they are eligible to register their demand for one telephone connection under Non-OYT-Special category, which is a priority category.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Action Plan for Meningitis/Kala-Azar**

1002. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of deaths occurred due to diseases like meningitis/Kala-azar during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the action plan prepared by the Government to prevent such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per

information received from Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, State-wise number of deaths due to Meningococcal Meningitis and Kala-azar are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(b) Prevention and control of meningitis is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. As regards Kala-azar, elimination of Kala-azar by 2010 is a National Health Policy goal and Kala-azar Eradication Programme is included in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Strategy for Kala-azar control/elimination includes early diagnosis and complete treatment of patients, vector control through insecticide spray and Information, Education and Communication for people's awareness and involvement. The Government of India provides Anti Kala-azar drugs and insecticides. From 1st December, 2003, 100% Central assistance for Kala-azar elimination excluding staff component of the State Government is provided to the endemic states namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The programme implementation is the responsibility of concerned State Governments.

**Statement I**

*Number of deaths occurred due to Meningitis during the year 2002 and 2003.*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Deaths	
		2002	2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3
3.	Assam	NR	NR
4.	Bihar	NR	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	NR	NR
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0
8.	Haryana	7	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	4
11.	Jharkhand	NR	NR

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	10	9
13.	Kerala	4	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	8
15.	Maharashtra	96	70
16.	Manipur	0	8
17.	Meghalaya	18	17
18.	Mizoram	1	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Orissa	2	13
21.	Punjab	28	1
22.	Rajasthan	39	35
23.	Sikkim	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	1
25.	* Tripura	1	0
26.	Uttaranchal	NR	NR
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2	4
28.	West Bengal	500	292
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	0
30.	Chandigarh	16	6
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0
33.	Delhi	50	48
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	12	16
Total		851	624

NR = Not Received

**Statement II**

*Number of deaths occurred due to Kala-azar during the years 2002 and 2003*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Deaths	
		2002	2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0
4.	Bihar	160	187
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	5
12.	Karnataka	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1
28.	West Bengal	5	7
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0
33.	Delhi <sup>⊙</sup>	2	10
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0
Total		168	210

⊙ Imported cases that received treatment in Delhi hospitals.

*[English]*

**Indo-US Conference on Space Science**

1003. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-US conference on space science was held recently;

(b) if so, the main features of the discussion held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The "India-USA Conference on Space Science, Applications and Commerce-Strengthening and Expanding Cooperation" was held in Bangalore during June 21-25, 2004.

(b) Government officials, scientists and industrialists from both countries presented papers on the subjects of space science, applications and commerce and discussed ways of enhancing cooperation in such areas.

(c) The Conference resulted in the issue of a Joint Vision Statement expressing the interest to strengthen



cooperation between both countries in specific areas and agreeing to review its progress at appropriate intervals.

*[Translation]*

#### **Outstanding Licence Fee of Private Companies**

1004. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private companies engaged in the field of telecommunication and the amount in the form of licence fee outstanding against each of the companies, separately and since when; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for realization of licence fee and for the

cancellation of the licence of the companies which are not depositing fee in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of private companies engaged in the field of telecommunications and having amounts in the form of licence fee outstanding against them are given in statement enclosed.

(b) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for realization of outstanding licence fee include persuasion, invocation of available Bank Guarantees and arbitration proceedings. Cancellation of licenses is also resorted to in suitable cases after following the procedure prescribed in the license agreement.

#### **Statement**

*License Fee dues of various companies providing telecom services (As on 31.5.2004)*

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Service Category	L Fee Dues	Dues accumulating from the year
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	Cellular	453.6	1999
2.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Cellular	3.77	2003
3.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Cellular	4.20	2004
4.	Satnet Telecom Ltd.	Comm1 VSAT	1.11	1999
5.	Data Line and Research Technologies	Comm1 VSAT	1	1996
6.	HFCL	Comm1 VSAT	0.5	2004
7.	Marcsat	Comm1 VSAT	1.47	1998
8.	ABC Communication India Pvt Limited	Radio Paging	6.4	1997
9.	Beltron Telecom Limited	Radio Paging	0.94	1998
10.	DSS Mobile Comm Limited	Radio Paging	10.38	1997
11.	Eider PWI Comm Ltd.	Radio Paging	8.58	1998
12.	Eider PWI Paging Services Limited	Radio Paging	17.33	1998

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Easy Call Comm. India Pvt. Limited	Radio Paging	4.81	1997
14.	Matrix Paging India Pvt. Limited	Radio Paging	10.42	1997
15.	Microwave Communication Ltd.	Radio Paging	18.66	1996
	Microwave Communication Ltd.	Voice Mail	0.36	1997
16.	Modi Korea Telecommunication Ltd.	Radio Paging	7.97	1997
17.	Netherland India Communication Enterprises Ltd.	Radio Paging	2.89	1997
18.	RPG Paging	Radio Paging	5.98	1997
19.	Telesistem India Pvt. Limited	Radio Paging	2.2	1997
20.	Punwire Mobile Comrn Ltd.	Radio Paging	144.86	1997
21.	Punwire Paging Services Ltd.	Radio Paging	50.9	1997
22.	India Paging Services Ltd.	Radio Paging	73.95	1997
23.	ICNET Ltd.	Email	0.3	1996
24.	Data Line Ltd.	Email	0.2	1997
25.	Data Pro Ltd.	Email	0.16	1998
26.	Archana Ltd.	Email	0.21	1996
27.	Elnet Technology Ltd.	Email	0.08	1997
28.	Business India Limited	Email	0.1	1998
29.	Arvind Mills Limited	PMRTS	0.005	2004
30.	Geman Express Shipping Agency Ltd.	PMRTS	0.0033	2004
31.	Hofintel Limited	PMRTS	0.00021	2004
32.	India Satcom Ltd.	PMRTS	0.00334	2004
33.	Miobikom India Ltd.	PMRTS	0.0101	2004
34.	Quickcalls Pvt. Limited	PMRTS	0.013	2004
35.	United Liner Agencies of India Pvt. Limited	PMRTS	0.0054	2004
Total			833.64	

Note: 1. The figures are based on the latest assessment carried out as on 31.5.2004 and exclude interest and penalty payable by the companies up to the date of realisation.

2. The dues of M/s Reliance telecom Ltd. are in the process of being recovered/adjusted out of the credits available with the Department.

*[English]***Concessions to Punjab Border Districts**

1005. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the small scale industries are facing serious crises since the removal of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is intending to give concessions to the border districts of the Punjab for the promotion of industry on the lines of concessions given to the border districts of Jammu & Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the time by which the concessions are likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government is constantly assessing and monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative restrictions (QRs) and WTO Agreement on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Though removal of QRs has exposed the SSIs to a greater competition, yet the SSI sector has continued to grow. However, even after removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties up to the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports etc.

The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other I.T. applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Live-Sheep Rabies Vaccines**

1006. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been initiated to phase out the live-sheep rabies vaccines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether pharmaceutical enterprises, in particular, have been advised to upgrade the animal sections in their respective laboratories;

(e) if so, the number of laboratories which have upgraded their animal sections in the last three years; and

(f) the mechanism, if any, evolved by the Government for monitoring such upgradations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The Government of India has decided to phase out live-sheep rabies vaccine, i.e. Neural Tissue Anti Rabies Vaccine in the country and to start administering Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine.

(d) to (f) Upgradation of animal section in the laboratories of pharmaceutical enterprises, including vaccine producing institutions under Central Government is an on-going process. Data relating to the upgradation of animal sections in the laboratories of other enterprises is not centrally maintained. Inspection of animal sections to ensure implementation of rule made therein is provided under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

**Re-opening Consulates by India & Pakistan**

1007. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed in principle to re-open their consulates in Karachi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the likely impact on Visa-seekers;

(d) whether both countries have also agreed to restore the staff strength of their respective High Commissions in New Delhi and Islamabad;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

(f) whether any timeframe has been fixed for re-opening the two consulates; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) In the Joint Statement issued on June 28, 2004 after the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, it was agreed in principle to re-establish India's Consulate General in Karachi and Pakistan's Consulate General in Mumbai. This would further facilitate the issuing of visas.

(d) and (e) During the Foreign secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on June 27-28, 2004 in New Delhi, it was agreed that the strengths of the respective High Commissions would be restored to the original level of 110.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Village Public Telephone

1008. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) the number of Village Public Telephone (VPT) installed in the country, State-wise;

(b) the target set for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target; and

(d) the time by which each village in the country is likely to be provided with VPT, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.5.2004, 509850 Village Public Telephone (VPTs) have been provided by BSNL in the country. Circle-wise details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) BSNL target for the Tenth Five Year Plan is to provide VPTs to 80828 villages.

(c) Following steps have been taken to achieve the target:

(i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system is being deployed in large quantity to provide VPTs.

(ii) Remote and isolated villages, which cannot be covered by any terrestrial media, are planned to be covered by satellite technology.

(d) BSNL has planned to cover the remaining villages of its share by 31-3-2006, subject to availability of financial support from the Government. Circle-wise details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

#### *Statement I*

#### *Circle-wise details of Village Public Telephones As on 31-05-2004*

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom Circle	Total No. of Revenue Villages	Number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201	198
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23419
3.	Assam	24685	19488
4.	Bihar	41077	38475
5.	Jharkhand	31703	26904
6.	Gujarat	18125	11214
7.	Haryana	6850	6811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16587
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4812
10.	Karnataka	27066	27066
11.	Kerala	1468	1468
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	37601
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	14665
14.	Maharashtra	42467	31541
15.	North East-I	7125	4206

1	2	3	4
16.	North East-II	7020	3266
17.	Orissa	46989	40753
18.	Punjab	12687	12687
19.	Rajasthan	39483	23858
20.	Tamil Nadu	17899	17899
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	79792	76000
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	23604	21268
23.	Uttaranchal	15610	11730
24.	West Bengal	38337	37306
25.	Calcutta	437	437
26.	Delhi	191	191
Total		607491	509850

**Statement II**

*Targets for providing VPTs in the remaining villages during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) by BSNL*

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom Circle	Total No. of Revenue Villages	Targets for providing VPTs during 10th Five Year Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	0
3.	Assam	24685	7667
4.	Bihar	41077	11663
5.	Jharkhand	31703	14630
6.	Gujarat	18125	0
7.	Haryana	6850	39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	545
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	2692
10.	Karnataka	27066	6

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	1468	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	4
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	340
14.	Maharashtra	42467	0
15.	North East-I	7125	4172
16.	North East-II	7020	4811
17.	Orissa	46989	11632
18.	Punjab	12687	0
19.	Rajasthan	39483	24
20.	Tamil Nadu	17899	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	79792	10478
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	23604	2336
23.	Uttaranchal	15610	5607
24.	West Bengal	38337	4178
25.	Calcutta	437	0
26.	Delhi	191	0
Total		607491	80828

**Increasing Accidents on National Highways 9 and 212**

1010. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are increasing on National Highways between Hyderabad-Vijayawada (NH-9) and Hyderabad and Warangal (NH-212) because of non-existence of divider thereon;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide divider on the said National Highways on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H.

MUNIYAPPA): (a) Accidents are taking place on Hyderabad-Vijayawada (H-V) section of NH-9 and Hyderabad-Warangal (H-W) section of NH-212 (the number of this NH is 202 and not 212) due to various reasons such as over-speeding, over-loading, and negligence on the part of vehicle drivers, etc. and not necessarily due to non-existence of divider.

(b) and (c) Dividers can be provided only on 4/6-lane section of Highway and their status is as under:

NH	Stretch	Status
9 (H-V)	Km 0/0-10/0	Already 4-laned with divider
	Km 10/0-41/0	Work of 4-laning with divider is in progress
	Km 217/0-265/0	Already 4-laned with divider
202 (H-W)	Km 0/0-9/0	Already 4-laned with divider
	Km 9/0-18/7	Sanctioned for 4-lane with provision of divider.

(d) The other reaches of NH 9 and NH 202 are 2-lane where divider can not be provided.

#### **Accidents on National Highway-17**

1011. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a number of accidents on National Highway-17 at Nuvem, Goa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make travel safe on National Highway No-17;

(c) whether the Government has made any provision of providing ambulance at accident prone zone to transport accident victims to the nearest hospital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) To make travel safer, measures undertaken are: provision of rumble strips, improvement of junctions on

cross-roads and improving road signages, besides bypasses at Mapusa, Verna and Santacruz are in operation and bypass at Margao is under construction.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ambulance is located at Verna fire-station, 5 Km from Nuvem. The State Government has opened a trauma unit at Goa Medical College, Bambolim, with qualified team of doctors and nurses. The unit is kept open for 24 hours with specialized ambulances on alert all 24 hours with special telephone number.

*[Translation]*

#### **Ban on Instruments for Measuring Blood Pressure**

1012. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many countries have banned the general instruments for measuring blood pressure as these contain mercury;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to ban such instruments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The mercury sphygmomanometer used traditionally for measuring blood pressure has been replaced in some countries due to environmental concerns. However, in replacement of mercury sphygmomanometer, there are also concern in many countries about the availability, affordability and accuracy of alternative devices.

*[English]*

#### **National Highways By-pass in Assam**

1013. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals formulated/being implemented for construction of various National Highways by-pass in Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of allocations made, amount released, and utilized so far; and

(c) the current status of scheme for construction of National Highways by-pass at North Lakhimpur and Tinsukhia of Assam along with specific alignment finalized, total outlay, year-wise target and allocation made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present, only the construction of Karimaganj bypass on NH-44 in Assam is under implementation. However, three more bypasses i.e. around the towns of Nagaon on NH-37, Daboka and Lanka on NH-54 have been identified under East-West corridor of NHDP for their implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) An amount of Rs. 71.15 crore has already been utilized on the construction of Karimaganj bypass.

(c) The construction of bypasses around the towns of North Lakhimpur and Tinsukhia is not envisaged at present.

#### Work on Kanpur-Lucknow National Highway

1014. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Kanpur-Lucknow national highway has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the delay has caused a number of accidents leading to several deaths;

(d) if so, the number of persons died since the work started and the compensation paid to them; and

(e) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Four laning of Lucknow-Kanpur section from km 11.380 to km 80.500 of NH-25 is part of East West Corridor under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Four laning from km 11.380 to km 21.800 has been completed, four laning of km 21.800 to km 59.500 is in advanced stage and likely to be completed by March, 2005. Four laning of km 59.500 to km 75.500 got delayed

due to termination of the contract on account of non-performance of the contractor. The work has been awarded to another agency and this stretch is targeted to be completed by June, 2005. Four laning of km 75.500 to km 80.500 including another two-lane bridge on Ganga river is being taken up under Phase-II of NHDP which is targeted for completion by December 2007.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The four laning of entire section of Lucknow-Kanpur including Ganga Bridge is likely to be completed by December 2007.

#### CSO Release on GDP Growth

1015. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation has released GDP growth estimate recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Statistical Organisation releases point out steady decline in some sectors of the economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income and Quarterly Estimates of GDP for the Financial Year 2003-04 on 30th June, 2004. According to this release, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices (1993-94) in the year 2003-04 registered a growth rate of 8.2 percent, over the Quick Estimates of GDP for the year 2002-03, with the broad sectors of the economy, namely, (a) 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', (b) 'mining, manufacturing, electricity and construction', and (c) 'services' registering growth rates of 9.1 percent, 6.7 percent, and 8.7 percent, respectively.

During the period January to March, 2004 (Q4 of 2003-04), the GDP at factor cost at constant (1993-94) prices registered a growth rate of 8.2 percent.

(c) No, Sir. There is no steady decline in absolute levels in any of the sectors of the economy.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Rise in Plan and Non-Plan Expenditure**

1016. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether both plan and non-plan expenditure registered sharp rise in the first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) From figures of expenditure available for the first two months of the first quarter of 2004-05 from the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Department of Expenditure, it is seen that Plan expenditure during 2004-05 (upto May, 2004) was Rs. 13,584 crore while non plan expenditure was Rs. 46,786 crore. This is about 57% and 26% higher respectively than the expenditure incurred during the corresponding period of the previous

year. This is mainly on account of expenditure under the ongoing Plan schemes of the Department of Rural Development and transfer of Plan funds to States and UT Governments, and on account of interest payments, defence expenditure, major subsidies and pensions. It is the Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan and non-developmental expenditure.

*[Translation]*

#### **WLL Based Telephone Exchanges**

1017. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan where WLL based Telephone Exchanges were sanctioned and the number of exchanges on which work has not been started so far, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the sanctioned exchanges are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In Rajasthan Telecom Circle, WLL based Telephone Exchanges were sanctioned for 126 places. Out of these 126 places, the WLL based Telephone Exchanges are already functional in 117 Places and at remaining 9 places, it is likely to start functioning during current financial year. The Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

*District-wise List of places where WLL Based telephone exchanges were sanctioned and the Present Status.*

Sl.No.	District	Name of Places	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Ajmer	Ajmer	Already Functional
2.	Ajmer	Beawar	Already Functional
3.	Ajmer	Madanganj	Already Functional
4.	Alwar	Alwar	Already Functional
5.	Alwar	Behror	Already Functional
6.	Alwar	Bhiwadi	Already Functional



1	2	3	4
7.	Alwar	Laxmangarh	Already Functional
8.	Banswara	Bagidora	Already Functional
9.	Banswara	Banswara	Already Functional
10.	Baran	Atru	Likely to be functional by October 2004
11.	Baran	Chabra	Already Functional
12.	Baran	Chhipabarod	Already Functional
13.	Baran	Mangrol	Already Functional
14.	Barmer	Balotra	Already Functional
15.	Barmer	Barmer	Already Functional
16.	Bharatpur	Bayana	Already Functional
17.	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Already Functional
18.	Bharatpur	Nadbai	Already Functional
19.	Bharatpur	Roopbas	Already Functional
20.	Bhilwara	Asind	Already Functional
21.	Bhilwara	Banera	Already Functional
22.	Bhilwara	Jhajpur	Already Functional
23.	Bhilwara	Kotri	Already Functional
24.	Bhilwara	Mandal	Already Functional
25.	Bhilwara	Shahpura	Already Functional
26.	Bikaner	Bikaner	Already Functional
27.	Bikaner	Chhatargarh	Already Functional
28.	Bikaner	Diyatra	Already Functional
29.	Bikaner	Jamsar	Already Functional
30.	Bikaner	Kolayat	Likely to be functional by October 2004
31.	Bikaner	Lunkaransar	Likely to be functional by October 2004
32.	Bikaner	Mahajan	Already Functional
33.	Bikaner	Nathusar	Already Functional
34.	Bikaner	Nokha	Already Functional
35.	Bikaner	Sridungargarh	Already Functional

1	2	3	4
36.	Bundi	Hindoli	Already Functional
37.	Bundi	Kapatan	Already Functional
38.	Bundi	Nainwa	Already Functional
39.	Chittorgarh	Barisadri	Already Functional
40.	Chittorgarh	Begun	Likely to be functional by October 2004
41.	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Already Functional
42.	Chittorgarh	Nimbahera	Already Functional
43.	Churu	Bidasar	Already Functional
44.	Churu	Lalgarh	Already Functional
45.	Churu	Sujangarh	Already Functional
46.	Churu	Taranagar	Already Functional
47.	Dausa	Bandikui	Already Functional
48.	Dausa	Lalsot	Likely to be functional by October 2004
49.	Dungarpur	Aspur	Already Functional
50.	Dungarpur	Dungarpur	Already Functional
51.	Dungarpur	Sagwara	Already Functional
52.	Hanumangarh	Bhadra	Already Functional
53.	Hanumangarh	Gotuwala	Already Functional
54.	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh	Already Functional
55.	Hanumangarh	Nohar	Already Functional
56.	Hanumangarh	Rawatsar	Already Functional
57.	Jaipur	Achrol	Likely to be functional by October 2004
58.	Jaipur	Bassi	Already Functional
59.	Jaipur	Chomu	Already Functional
60.	Jaipur	Dudu	Already Functional
61.	Jaipur	Jaipur	Already Functional
62.	Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer	Already Functional
63.	Jaisalmer	Pokran	Already Functional
64.	Jalore	Bhinmal	Already Functional

1	2	3	4
65.	Jalore	Jalore	Already Functional
66.	Jalore	Sanchole	Already Functional
67.	Jhalawar	Bhwanimandir	Already Functional
68.	Jhalawar	Khanpur	Already Functional
69.	Jhalawar	Reipur	Already Functional
70.	Jhunjhunu	Chirawa	Already Functional
71.	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	Already Functional
72.	Jhunjhunu	Khetrinagar	Already Functional
73.	Jhunjhunu	Navalgarh	Already Functional
74.	Jhunjhunu	Baleshwar	Likely to be functional by October 2004
75.	Jodhpur	Bhopalgarh	Already Functional
76.	Jodhpur	Danwara	Likely to be functional by October 2004
77.	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Already Functional
78.	Jodhpur	Mahania	Already Functional
79.	Jodhpur	Phalodi	Already Functional
80.	Jodhpur	Piparcity	Already Functional
81.	Karoli	Hindaun	Already Functional
82.	Karoli	Karoli	Already Functional
83.	Kota	Kota	Already Functional
84.	Kota	Rawatbhatta	Already Functional
85.	Nagaur	Deedwana	Already Functional
86.	Nagaur	Gotan	Already Functional
87.	Nagaur	Jayal	Already Functional
88.	Nagaur	Khinwasar	Already Functional
89.	Nagaur	Kuchaman City	Already Functional
90.	Nagaur	Ladnu	Already Functional
91.	Nagaur	Makrana	Already Functional
92.	Nagaur	Mertacity	Already Functional
93.	Nagaur	Nagaur	Already Functional

1	2	3	4
94.	Nagaur	Parbatsar	Already Functional
95.	Pali	Bali	Already Functional
96.	Pali	Desuri	Already Functional
97.	Pali	Jaitaran	Already Functional
98.	Pali	Raipur	Already Functional
99.	Pali	Rohat	Already Functional
100.	Pali	Sumerpur	Already Functional
101.	Rajsamand	Amet	Already Functional
102.	Rajsamand	Bhim	Already Functional
103.	Rajsamand	Deogarh	Already Functional
104.	Rajsamand	Rajsamand	Already Functional
105.	Sikar	Fatehpur	Already Functional
106.	Sikar	Laxmangarh	Already Functional
107.	Sikar	Neemkathana	Already Functional
108.	Sikar	Sikar	Already Functional
109.	Sikar	Srimadhapur	Already Functional
110.	Sirohi	Aburoad	Already Functional
111.	Sirohi	Sirohi	Already Functional
112.	Sriganganagar	Anoopgarh	Already Functional
113.	Sriganganagar	Gharsana	Already Functional
114.	Sriganganagar	Raisinghnagar	Already Functional
115.	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar	Already Functional
116.	Sriganganagar	Suratgarh	Already Functional
117.	Swaimadhapur	Gangapur	Already Functional
118.	Swaimadhapur	Swaimadhapur	Already Functional
119.	Tonk	Deoli	Already Functional
120.	Tonk	Malpura	Already Functional
121.	Tonk	Newai	Already Functional
122.	Udaipur	Dhriewad	Likely to be functional by October 2004

1	2	3	4
123.	Udaipur	Kherwara	Already Functional
124.	Udaipur	Mavli	Already Functional
125.	Udaipur	Udaipur	Already Functional
126.	Udaipur	Vallabh Nagar	Already Functional

[English]

**Amount Spent by CGM(T) in West Bengal**

1018. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by West Bengal CGM(T) for various works during the period 2000 to December, 2003; and

(b) the total amount spent by CGM(T) in various States for various works during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The BSNL was constituted on 1.10.2000 and the total amount spent by West Bengal CGM(T) and CGMs(T) of other BSNL circles for various works upto 31.12.2003 is as follows:

	Rs. in Crore	
West Bengal	1505.92	
Calcutta Telephones	554.41	2060.33 (Total for West Bengal)
Tamilnadu	2670.08	
Chennai Phones	777.90	3447.98 (Total for Tamilnadu)
Assam	658.86	
Andhra Pradesh	3303.60	
Bihar	859.39	
Gujrat	2780.53	
Jammu & Kashmir	341.17	

Karnataka	2640.49
Kerala	2673.96
Madhya Pradesh	1105.14
Maharashtra	4855.49
North East-I	73.65
Punjab	1792.46
Orissa	891.24
Rajasthan	1549.53
U.P. (East)	2865.20
U.P. (West)	3197.04
Haryana	881.40
Himachal Pradesh	609.32
Andaman & Nikobar	66.82
Chattisgarh	946.70
Jharkhand	1271.77
Uttaranchal	902.81
North East-II	564.44

[Translation]

1019. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of children suffering from Diabetes is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the spread of diabetes in children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per clinical impression of practicing diabetologists, there has been an increase in Type 2 diabetes, also known as Non-Insulin dependent Diabetes Mellitus (NIDDM) in children. This could be due to increasing prevalence of obesity and stress among children and also due to better diagnostic facilities and since diabetes is a life style related disease, it is very important to adopt preventive life style interventions for control of diabetes among children and adults in the country. These interventions are emphasized through information education and communication activities.

#### **Cultivation of Medicinal Plants**

1020. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to promote cultivation of medicinal plants in the country in view of the rising demand of Ayurvedic medicines in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Union ministries and State Governments have also been included in this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have taken steps to promote cultivation of medicinal plants considering the growing demands of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha medicines within the country and elsewhere. The Central Government established a Medicinal Plants Board in the Department of AYUSH vide resolution dated 24th November, 2000 under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. An area of 25,500 acres has been covered under cultivation of medicinal plants in addition to in-situ conservation over an area of 28,000 acres during the last three years in different States and U.Ts. taken together.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representative from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Science & Technology, Commerce, Industry, Finance, Agriculture, Tribal Affairs are members of the

Medicinal Plants Board. Two members from State have also been included on two years rotation basis. The Board considers the project proposal duly forwarded by the State Medicinal Plants Boards.

*[English]*

#### **Post Offices in Gram Panchayats**

1021. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gram Panchayats where post offices have not been opened in the country so, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the norms laid down for opening post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per information available with this office, on 31.3.2003, there were 1,15,605 Gram Panchayat villages in the country without post offices, State/Circle-wise figures are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of the norms laid down for opening post offices are given in Statement-II enclosed.

#### **Statement I**

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of Gram Panchayat villages without Post office
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6278
2.	Assam	68
3.	Bihar	1445
4.	Chhattisgarh	11285
5.	Delhi	Nil
6.	Gujarat	5175
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil
	Daman & Diu	2

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	3705
8.	Himachal Pradesh	626
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1631
10.	Jharkhand	1040
11.	Karnataka	467
12.	Kerala	Nil
	Lakshdweep	Nil
	Mahe	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9259
14.	Maharashtra	15767
	Goa	11
15.	North East	—
	Arunachal Pradesh	1826
	Manipur	149
	Meghalaya	582
	Mizoram	296
	Nagaland	734
	Tripura	390
16.	Orissa	363
17.	Punjab	9019
	Chandigarh	10
18.	Rajasthan	1009
19.	Tamil Nadu	3988
	Pondicherry	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	35881
21.	Uttaranchal	4549
22.	West Bengal	Nil
	Adaman & Nicobar Islands	27
	Sikkim	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>115605</b>

**Statement II****Norms for Opening Post Offices****1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post offices:****1.1 Population:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

**1.2 Distance:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

**1.3 Anticipated Income:****(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the cost.

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

**2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:****(a) In Rural Areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400 in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800 in Tribal and Hilly areas.

*(b) In Urban Areas:*

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Targets under PMRY in Rajasthan**

1022. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed any targets for Rajasthan under PMRY during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, whether the targets have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The targets of 16400, 16600 and 16200 were allocated to Rajasthan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Mumbai, loans have been disbursed to 12476, 12258 and 7440 (Provisional) cases during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(d) and (e) The reasons for non-achievement of targets include non-completion of pre-disbursement formalities by the applicants, change of activity by the

applicant after recommendation by the task-force, lack of infrastructure facilities like workshop, power, etc.

Various steps already taken & proposed to be taken to achieve the allocated targets are liberalization of certain parameters of the scheme in respect of educational qualifications, activities covered and annual family income, extension of time for disbursement, prescription of quarterly schedule for sponsoring, sanctioning and disbursement of applications etc. Besides, the targets are now communicated at the beginning of the financial year and the progress of Scheme is regularly monitored at the District, State and Central Level.

**Harassment of Indian Fishermen by Sri Lanka**

1023. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Indian fishermen are being harassed by Sri Lankan authorities often;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been taken up with the concerned Sri Lankan authorities; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Sri Lankan government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No incident of harassment of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities has come to notice recently.

(b) and (c) Both the Governments of India and Sri Lanka have agreed to deal with problems arising from fishermen straying into each other's maritime zones, in a sympathetic and humane manner. These existing understandings are working well and apprehended Indian fishermen are released promptly by the Sri Lankan authorities.

**Eight Laning of National Highway from Dhaula Kuan to Gurgaon**

1024. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the eight laning of National Highway from Dhaula Kuan to Gurgaon;



(b) if so, whether the said work is proposed to be extended to Jaipur, phase-wise; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Government have approved 8/6 laning of National Highway No. 8 from Rao Tula Ram Marg junction in Delhi to Gurgaon (about 28 km) on BOT basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Production of Khadi

1025. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi production has diminished due to non-payment of rebate claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production of Khadi during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase Khadi production?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of Khadi during each of the last three years is as follows:

Years	Production	
	Quantity (Million in Sq. Mts.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2001-02	58.90	416.69
2002-03	62.03	443.07
2003-04 (P)	63.27	451.93

(d) Production of Khadi has shown an increasing trend during the last three years. However, to further

boost production of Khadi, Khadi and Village Industries Commission has inter alia taken the following measures:

(i) Renovation and Modernization of sales outlets.

(ii) Launching of scheme for Product Development, design intervention and Packaging.

(iii) Organizing large number of exhibitions at district, state and zonal levels to popularize khadi and promote sales of khadi.

#### Optimum Utilisation of Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

1026. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone exchanges in the country especially in Bhagalpur, Bihar, are not making optimum utilization of their capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of the said telephone exchanges;

(d) the number of applications pending for new connections with these telephone exchanges; and

(e) the time by which all these pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) While most of the telephone exchanges in the country are making optimum utilization of their capacity, utilization is less in some cases due to factors such as opening of more remote units near customer premises to reduce fault rate, keeping spare capacity for providing telephones on demand and so on. The capacity of Bhagalpur Exchange is 31,000 and its loading is 22,500 i.e. 72.6% loading. For Bihar circle, the capacity utilization figure is around 71.9% as on 31.3.2004.

(d) The number of applications pending for new connections in Bhagalpur is 123 which are in technically non-feasible areas.

(e) The pending application which are technically feasible would be cleared by June 2005.

**Declaration of Bankura Durgapur Road  
as National Highway**

1027. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare the stretch of road from Bankura to Durgapur via Beliatore adjoining NH 60 as a national highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bankura and Durgapur are already connected by National Highway, via Raniganj, which is 28 km away from Durgapur.

**Setting up of Passport Office**

1028. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu in the absence of a full-fledged passport office there;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration of the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up a passport office at Daman and Diu; and

(d) the time by which the said passport office is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No specific complaints have been received relating to passport services for Daman and Diu. Opening of new Passport Office depends on various factors such as the work load and availability of resources. As per existing guidelines there should be at least 50,000 passport applications per annum from an area to justify this. This criterion is not met in the case of Daman and Diu which account for approximately 2000 applications per annum. Besides, as

part of the process of decentralization of submission of passport applications to district level and to bring passport services closer to the public, District Passport Cells (DPCs) have been opened in various districts across the country. A DPC has started functioning in Daman since 1st March, 2004.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Performance of Health Programmes**

1029. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the success achieved in various programmes pertaining to infant mortality rate, birth-rate, death-rate and life expectancy during the last Plan period;

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

(c) whether the above programmes have not achieved the targets fixed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the remedial measures being taken in this regard; and

(f) the details of the projections made for the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The infant mortality rate has declined from 71/1000 live births in 1997 to 68/1000 live births in 2000. The birth rate has decreased from 27.2/1000 in 1997 to 25.8/1000 in 2000 and death rate from 8.9/1000 in 1997 to 8.5/1000 in 2000. The life expectancy has been 62.3 for males and 65.27 for females.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) the Government of India has formulated National Population Policy 2000, which provides a policy framework for advocacy goals and prioritizing strategies to meet the reproductive and child health needs. The National Population policy 2000 aims at reduction of Infant Mortality Rate to <30/1000 live births and achieve 80% deliveries in institutions and 100% deliveries by trained personnel by the year 2010 with an aim to reduce the maternal mortality rate below 100 per 100,000 live births. It lays emphasis on training of health personnel and

strengthening of primary health care services, including provision of emergency obstetric care for meeting the above mentioned goals.

The Reproductive and Child Health Programme being implemented is working towards achieving these goals.

*Statement*

*Infant Mortality Rate*

States	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Major States</b>						
Andhra Pradesh	63	66	66	65	66	62
Assam	76	76	76	75	73	70
Bihar	71	67	63	62	62	61
Chhattisgarh	89	94	78	79	76	73
Gujarat	62	64	63	62	60	60
Haryana	68	70	68	67	65	62
Jharkhand	68	62	71	70	62	58
Karnataka	53	58	58	57	58	55
Kerala	12	16	14	14	11	10
Madhya Pradesh	94	98	90	87	86	85
Maharashtra	47	49	48	48	45	45
Orissa	96	98	97	95	90	87
Punjab	51	54	53	52	51	51
Rajasthan	85	83	81	79	79	78
Tamil Nadu	53	53	52	51	49	44
Uttar Pradesh	85	85	84	83	82	80
West Bengal	55	53	52	51	51	49
Himachal Pradesh	63	68	62	60	54	40
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	45	NA	50	48	47
<b>Minor States</b>						
Arunachal Pradesh	47	44	43	44	39	40
Delhi	35	36	31	32	29	32
Goa	19	23	21	23	19	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Himachal Pradesh	63	64	62	62	60	58
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	45	52	50	48	47
Manipur	30	25	25	23	20	17
Meghalaya	54	52	56	58	56	60
Mizoram	19	23	19	21	19	15
Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sikkim	51	52	49	49	42	39
Tripura	51	49	42	41	39	38
Uttaranchal	56	58	52	50	48	44
<b>Union Territories</b>						
Andaman and Nicobar	33	30	25	23	18	21
Chandigarh	40	32	28	28	24	25
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63	61	56	58	58	56
Daman and Diu	38	51	35	48	40	39
Lakshadweep	36	26	32	27	33	25
Pondicherry	22	21	22	23	22	23
All India	71	72	70	68	66	64

Source : Sample Registration System

\*Provisional

*Crude Birth Rate (CBR)*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.5	22.4	21.7	21.3	20.8	20.6
2.	Assam	28.2	27.9	27.0	26.9	26.8	26.6
3.	Bihar	31.7	31.1	30.4	31.9	31.2	30.9
4.	Chhattisgarh	32.2	28.7	26.9	26.7	26.3	25.0
5.	Gujarat	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.2	24.9	24.6
6.	Haryana	28.3	27.6	26.8	26.9	26.7	26.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Jharkhand	28.2	26.9	26.3	26.5	26.3	26.4
8.	Karnataka	22.7	22.0	22.3	22.0	22.2	22.0
9.	Kerala	17.9	18.3	18.0	17.9	17.2	16.8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31.9	30.7	30.7	31.4	30.8	30.3
11.	Maharashtra	23.1	22.5	21.1	21.0	20.6	20.2
12.	Orissa	26.5	25.7	24.1	24.3	23.4	23.1
13.	Punjab	23.4	22.4	21.5	21.6	21.2	20.8
14.	Rajasthan	32.1	31.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	30.6
15.	Tamil Nadu	19.0	19.2	49.3	19.3	19.0	18.5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	33.5	32.4	32.1	32.8	32.1	31.6
17.	West Bengal	22.4	21.3	20.7	20.7	20.5	20.3
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	22.5	22.3	22.3	22.0	20.2
19.	Delhi	21.1	19.4	20.3	20.3	18.7	17.2
20.	Goa	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	13.9	14.0
21.	Himachal Pradesh	22.6	22.6	23.8	22.1	21.0	20.7
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	19.9	20.9	19.7	20.1	19.2
23.	Manipur	19.7	19.0	18.6	18.3	18.2	16.8
24.	Meghalaya	30.2	29.2	28.7	28.5	28.3	25.8
25.	Mizoram	NA	15.8	17.0	16.0	15.7	16.9
26.	Nagaland	NA	11.9	11.8	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
27.	Sikkim	19.8	20.9	21.6	21.8	21.6	21.9
28.	Tripura	18.3	17.6	17.0	16.5	16.1	14.9
29.	Uttaranchal	22.9	23.6	19.6	20.2	18.5	17.0
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	18.6	17.7	18.1	19.1	16.8	16.8
31.	Chandigarh	18.8	17.9	17.9	17.5	16.1	14.6
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	28.2	34.1	34.2	34.9	29.3	30.4
33.	Daman & Diu	24.9	21.7	26.9	23.7	22.3	22.4
34.	Lakshadweep	22.9	23.0	25.1	26.1	20.4	19.3
35.	Pondicherry	18.4	18.2	17.7	17.8	17.9	17.9
	All India	27.2	26.5	26.1	25.8	25.4	25.0

Source: Sample Registration System

\*Provisional.

*Crude Death Rate (CDR)*

Sl. No.	State	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.3	8.8	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.0
2.	Assam	9.9	10.0	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.2
3.	Bihar	10.0	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.2	7.9
4.	Gujarat	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.6
5.	Haryana	8.0	8.2	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.6
6.	Karnataka	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.2
7.	Kerala	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.4
8.	Madhya Pradesh	11.0	11.2	10.4	10.2	10.0	9.7
9.	Maharashtra	7.3	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.3
10.	Orissa	10.9	11.1	10.7	10.5	10.2	9.8
11.	Punjab	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.1
12.	Rajasthan	8.9	8.8	8.4	8.4	7.9	7.7
13.	Tamil Nadu	8.0	8.5	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.7
14.	Uttar Pradesh	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.1	9.7
15.	West Bengal	7.7	7.5	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.6
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.8	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.5	4.8
17.	Chhattisgarh	10.9	10.4	9.6	9.6	8.8	8.7
18.	Delhi	5.4	5.3	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.1
19.	Goa	7.7	8.2	7.2	7.4	7.5	8.3
20.	Himachal Pradesh	8.1	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.5
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	5.4	NA	6.2	6.1	5.7
22.	Jharkhand	9.6	8.5	8.9	9.0	8.8	7.9
23.	Manipur	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.1	4.6
24.	Meghalaya	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.0	7.7
25.	Mizoram	NA	5.6	5.5	5.2	4.4	4.8
26.	Nagaland	NA	1.7	2.3	NA	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Sikkim	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.1	4.9
28.	Tripura	6.8	6.1	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.7
29.	Uttaranchal	6.5	7.4	6.5	6.9	7.8	6.4
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.1	4.6	5.5	5.1	4.7	5.5
31.	Chandigarh	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.4
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8.2	7.9	6.6	7.8	6.5	6.8
33.	Daman & Diu	5.9	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.7	6.6
34.	Lakshadweep	6.2	6.2	4.7	6.0	5.0	5.2
35.	Pondicherry	8.0	7.8	6.9	6.5	7.0	6.7
	All India	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.1

Source: SRS

NA-Not Available

\*Provisional.

*Table A.15**Projected Levels of the Expectation of Life at Birth ( $e_0$ ), 1996-2016*

Major States	Male				Female			
	1996-2001	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	1996-2001	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	61.55	62.79	63.92	64.94	63.74	65.00	66.16	67.23
Assam	57.34	58.96	60.44	61.77	58.84	60.87	62.70	64.36
Bihar	63.55	65.66	67.46	69.98	62.07	64.79	67.09	69.05
Gujarat	61.53	63.12	64.60	65.76	62.77	64.10	65.49	66.45
Haryana	53.87	64.64	65.50	66.03	67.39	69.30	70.00	70.00
Karnataka	61.73	62.43	63.10	63.73	65.36	66.44	67.43	68.35
Kerala	70.69	71.67	72.00	72.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Madhya Pradesh	56.83	59.19	59.20	60.70	57.21	58.01	59.80	61.40
Maharashtra	65.31	66.75	67.98	69.02	68.19	69.76	71.13	72.00
Orissa	58.52	60.05	61.44	62.70	58.07	59.71	61.23	62.63
Punjab	68.39	69.78	70.88	71.74	71.40	72.00	72.00	72.00
Rajasthan	60.32	62.17	63.79	65.21	61.36	62.80	65.22	66.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu	65.21	67.00	68.45	69.64	67.58	69.75	71.54	72.00
Uttar Pradesh	61.20	63.54	65.48	67.10	61.10	64.09	66.60	68.72
West Bengal	64.50	66.08	67.42	68.57	67.20	69.34	71.11	72.00
India (Pooled)	62.30	63.87	65.65	67.04	65.27	66.91	67.67	69.18
India	62.36	64.11	65.63	66.93	63.39	65.43	67.22	68.80

Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections—1996, R G India.

### Spending on Infrastructural Projects

1030. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to increase the spending on infrastructural projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of such infrastructural projects and the time by which these are likely to be completed?

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

(b) There is a continuous increase in the expenditure on infrastructure projects in the last 3 years. Actual expenditure recorded in the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are Rs. 16,329 crore, Rs. 25,092 crore and Rs. 29,380 crore respectively.

(c) As on 1.4.2004, 207 projects on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation are scheduled for completion during the year 2004-05.

### Developing a Multi Speciality Centre at RML Hospital

1031. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 24 crore project to set up a multi-speciality state of the art trauma center at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi has not come up as yet, though the project was originally conceived way back in 1999 and the foundation stone was laid in 2001;

(b) if so, the status of the project as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The construction of the five-storied multi-speciality trauma care centre building is completed up to 2nd floor. As per the revised schedule given by CPWD, the construction of the Trauma Centre is schedule to be completed by 31st March, 2005.

### Polio Cases

1032. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of polio cases detected during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any State in the country has been declared polio free; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Number of polio cases detected during the last three years, State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No State in the country has been declared polio free. However, in 15 States/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) no polio cases has been detected for past three years.



**Statement****State-wise Polio Cases from 2001 to 2004**

(upto 3rd July, 2004)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Wild Poliovirus			
		2001	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	21	1
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	1	0	1	0
5.	Bihar	27	121	18	4
6.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	0
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	3	24	3	1
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	1	24	3	0
13.	Haryana	5	37	3	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	2	12	1	0
17.	Karnataka	0	0	36	1
18.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	0	21	11	0
21.	Maharashtra	4	6	3	1
22.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	0	4	2	0
27.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	5	2	1	0
29.	Rajasthan	0	41	4	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	2	1
32.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
33.	Uttaranchal	3	14	0	0
34.	Uttar Pradesh	216	1242	88	6
35.	West Bengal	1	49	28	1
	Total	268	1600	225	16

**Violation of Motor Vehicles Act by Container Trailers**

1033. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the container trailers do not adhere to safety norms prescribed in the Motor Vehicles Act;

(b) if so, whether a large number of container trailers are involved in accidents killing people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the preventive steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Maximum Gross Vehicle Weights and maximum safe axle weights for various types of vehicles including for tractor/truck-trailer combinations have been prescribed by the Government. Enforcement of these load ceilings is the responsibility of concerned State Governments/UT administrations.

(b) Vehicle-wise Road accident data is not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has been undertaking a number of engineering and educational measures to prevent road accidents. Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to check the road accidents are as under:

- (1) Cranes and ambulances are provided to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.
- (2) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.

- (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (8) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

#### **Saraighat Bridge**

1034. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of inauguration of Saraighat bridge over river Brahmaputra near Guwahati;
- (b) whether the bridge is in danger of imminent shut down; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for an alternative bridge near Guwahati to keep this vital strategic line alive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Saraighat bridge over river Brahmaputra near Guwahati was inaugurated on 16.1.1963.

(b) This is a rail-cum-road bridge and is being maintained by the Railways. According to them, the bridge is not in danger of imminent shut down.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Health Facilities from Private Practitioners**

1035. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to allow Members of Parliament and Government employees to avail of health facilities from private practitioners on reimbursement basis instead of Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Members of Parliament are covered under the Medical Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1959 under which they shall be entitled to same medical

facilities as are available to officers of the Central Civil Services, class I, having their headquarters in Delhi or New Delhi, under the Contributory Health Services Scheme for Central Government employees. The Contributory Health Services Scheme covers specified cities/areas in the country. The Government servants residing in these areas are covered under the CGHS. The Central Government employees who reside in areas where CGHS has not been extended are covered under Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, wherein, medical services of an authorised medical attendant can be obtained in case of need.

*[Translation]*

#### **Foreign Investment in SSI Sector**

1036. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is considering any proposal to increase the limit of foreign capital investment in the SSI units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the SSI units as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of above, question does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Circulation of Banned Drugs**

1037. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many drugs which are in circulation in Indian markets have been banned in U.S. and European countries;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There is no uniform globally accepted system of banning of drugs. Drugs withdrawn in one country are not necessarily withdrawn in other countries. The reports of prohibition of any specific drug in a country and the reasons thereof are examined by the regulatory authorities of other countries and action for banning of the drug is taken after examining its dose and usage permitted in the country, overall benefit risk ratio and its requirements in the country. For example Drugs like Cisapride and Phenyl propanolamine are prohibited in U.S.A. but are permitted to be marketed in many European countries.

The reports of prohibition of a particular drug in a country along with the reasons thereof are examined in consultation with medical experts and expert committees appointed for the purpose of thorough scientific examination of available data. The decision regarding banning of a drug is normally based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reaction

of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of so far substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease.

#### Handling of Traffic at Ports

1038. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual traffic handled by various ports during 2003-2004, port-wise;

(b) the details of the targets fixed and achieved so far, port-wise; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred and income generated as compared to 2002-2003 at each port?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The port-wise cargo handled during 2003-04, targets of cargo traffic during 2004-05 and cargo traffic achieved during the period April-June, 2004 are given below:

(In million tonnage)

Port	Cargo Traffic Handled 2003-04	Annual Target 2004-05	Cargo Traffic Achieved (April-June, 2004)
Kolkata	41.05	43.36	8.91
Paradip	25.31	27.49	6.85
Visakhapatnam	47.74	49.56	11.00
Ennore	9.28	11.89	2.46
Chennai	36.71	39.18	9.29
Tuticorin	13.68	14.20	3.75
Cochin	13.57	14.07	3.43
New Mangalore	26.67	27.77	7.58
Mormugao	27.88	28.78	6.49
Jawaharlal Nehru	31.18	36.11	8.25
Mumbai	29.96	32.25	7.62
Kandla	41.52	42.31	10.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>344.55</b>	<b>366.97</b>	<b>85.78</b>

(c) The port-wise details of income generated and expenditure incurred during 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03 are given below:

(Rupees in crores)

Port	Operating income		Operating Expenditure		Total Income		Total Expenditure	
	2003-04 (Provisional)	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	2002-03
Kolkata	953.96	868.28	675.25	664.65	1010.38	927.20	897.10	855.96
Paradip	398.60	381.22	237.63	211.79	412.10	406.55	308.33	327.66
Visakhapatnam	453.07	427.56	221.86	217.68	468.66	441.61	382.85	384.04
Ennore	85.64	76.87	38.92	23.78	87.32	78.05	90.15	70.92
Chennai	368.56	335.46	261.40	270.25	413.58	446.04	339.40	319.36
Tuticorin	124.62	124.59	64.78	60.99	149.94	144.74	94.28	94.17
Cochin	201.46	200.69	141.54	147.21	217.14	215.97	193.36	196.57
New Mangalore	223.10	202.41	108.11	96.03	236.97	215.04	178.63	159.81
Mormugao	207.67	187.59	134.65	128.32	215.98	194.83	188.68	171.47
Mumbai	511.46	458.92	503.70	430.99	544.88	913.44	761.67*	599.58
Jawaharlal Nehru	579.61	441.25	234.06	212.32	648.73	553.23	445.36	373.89
Kandla	210.71	211.98	165.97	139.72	387.65	374.41	297.58	202.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>4318.46</b>	<b>3916.82</b>	<b>2787.87</b>	<b>2603.73</b>	<b>4793.33</b>	<b>4911.11</b>	<b>4177.39</b>	<b>3755.77</b>

\*including contribution of Rs. 210.00 Crores to recognised Pension Fund.

[*Translation*]

### Population Living Below Poverty Line

1039. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified district with more than 50% of the population living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the stand of the Government in this regard and the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the population living below poverty line at national and state level from the

large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). As such separate poverty estimates at district level are not available. However, the number and proportion of population living below the poverty line in the rural and urban areas, state-wise, estimated from the latest round of NSSO on household consumer expenditure survey for the year 1999-2000 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Government has been implementing number of poverty alleviation programmes throughout the country for the people living below poverty line. Besides this, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), aims at focused development programmes for backward areas, primarily to fill critical gaps, which would help reduce imbalances, speed up development and help these areas to reduce poverty during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

**Statement****Number and Percentage of Population Living Below Poverty Line in States—1999-2000**

No.	States/UT.'s	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
All India		1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

**Note:**

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Island.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

**Old Bridges on NHs in Bihar**

1040. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old bridges on national highways in Bihar whose life span has expired;

(b) whether the Government proposes to widen the old bridges to reduce traffic congestion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H.

MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 202 nos. of bridges on National Highways in Bihar, which require reconstruction.

(b) to (d) Reconstruction of bridges are taken up in a phased manner depending upon the availability of funds and *inter se* priority. Out of 202 nos. of bridges, 97 are being reconstructed on National Highways under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). On other National Highways construction of 11 bridges are under progress and provision for reconstruction of 14 bridges have been made in the current Annual Plan 2004-05. The bridges are being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

*[English]*

**Starting of D.M. (Rheumatology) Course**

1041. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking permission to start D.M. (Rheumatology) course in the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded the sanction for the same;

(c) if so, the time by which the course is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor including the time frame within which the proposal is likely to be accorded sanction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad seeking permission to start DM-Rheumatology course at the Institute. The proposal was referred to Medical Council of India (MCI) for evaluation. The MCI after inspection of the college did not recommend for starting of the course in view of non-availability of qualified teaching staff. The deficiencies were conveyed to the institute authority. On the basis of clarification received from the institute authority, the MCI has been asked to reconsider the matter. The grant of permission of NIMS for starting DM-Rheumatology by the Central Government would depend upon availability of the necessary infrastructural facilities as per the norms of Medical Council of India (MCI) and the recommendations of the MCI thereon.

*[Translation]*

#### Over-Bridges on Highways

1042. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any scheme to construct over-bridges on those highways where a railway line passes through;

(b) if so, the names of the highways alongwith the names of the places where these over-bridges are likely to be constructed on railway lines;

(c) whether any over-bridge is likely to be constructed on Safedabad Highway in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways, including construction of over bridges/under bridges on National Highways crossing Railway lines. The details of Railway Over Bridges/Railway Under Bridges proposed to be constructed/sanctioned on National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Non-NHDP Projects are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct overbridge on railway line near Safedabad on NH-28 in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Construction of overbridge is likely to start by middle of the year 2005.

(e) Does not arise.

#### *Statement I*

*The details of Railway Over Bridges/Railway Under Bridges proposed to be constructed by National Highways Authority of India under National Highways Development project.*

Sl. No.	State	National Highway No.	Railway Over Bridges/Railway Under Bridges proposed to be sanctioned for construction Name of Place/Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Near Dichepally at km 334/2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Near Patharayanpet at km 378/1
3.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Near Mamidipalli at km 312



1	2	3	4
4.	Andhra Pradesh	7	At km 35/30 (To be 4-laned)
5.	Andhra Pradesh	7	At km 87/850 (To be 4-laned)
6.	Andhra Pradesh	7	HYD-Bng section at km 196 (New 4 laned)
7.	Andhra Pradesh	7	At km 300/60
8.	Andhra Pradesh	7	At km 261/485
9.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Ananthapur bypass at 351/30
10.	Andhra Pradesh	7	At km 397/40
11.	Andhra Pradesh	7	Penukonda bypass at km 419/00
12.	Assam	37	Dharamtul to Sonepur at km 209
13.	Assam	31	Guwahati to Nalbari at km 1114
14.	Assam	31	Guwahati to Nalbari at km 1084
15.	Assam	31	Guwahati to Nalbari at km 1075
16.	Assam	31	Nalbari to Bijni at km 1029
17.	Assam	31C	Bijni to Assam/West Bengal border at km 88
18.	Assam	54	Silchar to Udabandh to Harangajo at km 304/6
19.	Assam	54	Harangajo to Langting at km 165
20.	Assam	54	Langting to Daboaka at km 63
21.	Assam	54	Langting to Daboaka at km 25
22.	Assam	54	Langting to Daboaka at km 24
23.	Assam	37	Nagaon to Dharamatul at km 241
24.	Assam	37	Nagaon to Dharamatul (0.7 Km from start point of Nagaon bypass) at km 262/725
25.	Bihar	28	Gopal Ganj at km 369
26.	Bihar	28	East Champaran (Motihari) at km 453
27.	Bihar	28	Muzaffarpur at km 517
28.	Gujarat	8B	Upleta bypass at km 75/690
29.	Gujarat	8B	Rajkot bypass at km 175/386 (Additional 2 lane)
30.	Gujarat	8A	Wankaner at km 207/100 (New 2-lane for service lane)
31.	Gujarat	8A	Near Wankaner at km 210/700 (New 4-lane)

1	2	3	4
32.	Gujarat	8A	near Maliya at km 267/1 (Additional 2-lane)
33.	Gujarat	8A	near Maliya at km 271/742 (Additional 2-lane)
34.	Gujarat	15	near Samakhiali Junction at km 281/000 (New 4-lane) ROB, new alignment)
35.	Gujarat	15	at km 217/400
36.	Gujarat	15	at km 161/200
37.	Gujarat	14	at km 394/700
38.	Gujarat	14	at km 330
39.	Karnataka	7	near Avathi at km 517/800
40.	Karnataka	48	at km 328 (Additional 2-lane)
41.	Karnataka	48	at km 334/345 (Additional 2-lane)
42.	Karnataka	17	at km 364 (Additional 2-lane)
43.	Karnataka	7	between Chinthamani and Chikballapur at km 508/120
44.	Kerala	47	Palakkad bypass (Additional 2-lane)
45.	Madhya Pradesh	76	at km 604
46.	Madhya Pradesh	75	Gwalior bypass (2 nos)
47.	Madhya Pradesh	26	Sagar bypass
48.	Madhya Pradesh	26	Kareli bypass
49.	Madhya Pradesh	7	Seoni bypass
50.	Maharashtra	7	Kamptee bypass (2 nos)
51.	Maharashtra	7	Butibori at km 23/5
52.	Maharashtra	7	Nagpur-Adilabad section at km 37/4 (to be 4-laned)
53.	Maharashtra	7	Hinganghat (Nagpur-Adilabad section) at km 76/235
54.	Punjab	1A	(2 in nos)
55.	Punjab	1A	Jammu bypass
56.	Rajasthan	14	at km 283
57.	Rajasthan	76	Pindwara bypass
58.	Rajasthan	76	Chittorgarh bypass
59.	Rajasthan	76	Kota bypass
60.	Rajasthan	76	at km 432

1	2	3	4
61.	Rajasthan	76	Baran bypass
62.	Tamil Nadu	7	Near Thoppur at km 166/00 (Additional 2-lane)
63.	Tamil Nadu	47	Near Magudanchabadi at km 20/4 (Additional 2-lane)
64.	Tamil Nadu	47	Near Magudanchabadi at km 23/2 (Additional 2-lane)
65.	Tamil Nadu	47	Dindigul bypass
66.	Tamil Nadu	7	Near Madurai at km 449/100 (Additional 2-lane)
67.	Tamil Nadu	7	Samayanallur BG (0/29 new chainage) proposed Madurai bypass at km 427/00
68.	Tamil Nadu	7	MG Madurai-Bodi section at km 8/840
69.	Tamil Nadu	7	Virdhu Nagar-Quilon NG at km 46/600
70.	Tamil Nadu	7	Madurai-Tirunelveli BG at km 142/676
71.	Tamil Nadu	7	Tirunelveli-Tiruchendhur MG at km 153/681
72.	Tamil Nadu	7	Tirunelveli-Nagercoil B at km 169/977
73.	Tamil Nadu	7	Kavalkinaru-Tirunelveli-Nagercoil BG at km 210/306
74.	Tamil Nadu	7	Kanyakumari-Nagarcoil BG at km 232/977
75.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Jhansi bypass (Indore-Gwalior)
76.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Jhansi bypass (Jhansi-Kanpur)
77.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Parichha at 120
78.	Uttar Pradesh	25	Orai bypass
79.	Uttar Pradesh	2&3	Agra bypass (4 in nos.)
80.	Uttar Pradesh	26	Jhansi bypass (1 nos.)
81.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Safedabad (near Barabanki) at km 20/45
82.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Ronjagaon
83.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Faizabad at km1/250
84.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Faizabad bypass at km 2
85.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Faizabad bypass at km 11/600
86.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Basti bypass at km 200/838
87.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Sihapar Halt at 244/2
88.	Uttar Pradesh	28	Ramnagar Karjahan (on Gorakhpur bypass a new alignment)

1	2	3	4
89.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad bypass (Allahabad-Rai Bareilly) at km 188/479
90.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad bypass (Allahabad-Pratapgrh) at km 199/810
91.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad bypass (Allahabad-Jaunpur) at km 209/075
92.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad bypass (Allahabad-Varanasi) at km 241/00
93.	West Bengal	2	Panagarh
94.	West Bengal	31C	at km 215/2 (To be 4-laned)
95.	West Bengal	31	Gairikatta to Siliguri (3.7 km from start point of Mal bypass) at km 623/05
96.	West Bengal	31	Gairikatta to Siliguri at km 615/48
97.	West Bengal	31	Gairikatta to Siliguri at km 603/55
98.	West Bengal	31	Gairikatta to Siliguri (2.1 Km from start point of Sevoke bypass) at km 591/500
99.	West Bengal	31	Siliguri to Islampur at km 574
100.	West Bengal	31	Siliguri to Islampur at km 567
101.	West Bengal	31	Siliguri to Islampur at km 563
102.	West Bengal	31	Siliguri to Islampur at km 529

**Statement II**

*The details of Railway Over Bridges/Railway Under Bridges on Non-NHDP stretches of National Highways proposed to be sanctioned for construction.*

Sl. No.	State	National Highway No.	Railway Over Bridges/Railway Under Bridges proposed to be sanctioned for construction Name of Place/Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	59	at km 138/0-2
2.		59	at km 144/6-8
3.		8D	at km 0/0-2/14
4.		8D	at km 25/2-26/5
5.	Haryana	71	ROB at Rewari Jahjhar Road at Level crossing No. 57-B at Rewari (Rewari-Delhi line)
6.	Karnataka	63	at km 340/800
7.		206	at km 149/580

1	2	3	4
8.	Kerala	17	Edappally ROB
9.		47	Alapuzha ROBs (2 in numbers)
10.	Punjab	64	Level crossing No. 66A at Sangrur

*[English]*

#### **Establishment of Ayurveda Park in Kerala**

1043. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any project proposal for establishment of an Ayurveda Park in Kerala;

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

(c) the total funds earmarked for the project?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of Ayurveda Park at Kozhikode had been received from the Government of Kerala. As there was no scheme to provide financial support for such a proposal, the Government of Kerala was informed accordingly.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of Head Post Office Building in Surat**

1044. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared the proposal for construction the building of the Head Post Office in Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of funds sanctioned for this purpose;

(c) the extent of work carried out till June 30, 2004 in terms of percentage; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to finish this work within the stipulated time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir the construction of Head Post Office building (Nanpura) in Surat has been completed as on 30-6-2004.

*[English]*

#### **Strike by CGHS Chemists**

1045. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the CGHS beneficiaries particularly pensioners due to the frequent strikes by the CGHS approved chemists;

(b) whether the beneficiaries are also directed to purchase medicines from the shops and apply for reimbursement which takes months together;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons of the frequent strikes by the chemists and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The reimbursement of bills of Senior Citizens (CGHS pensioner cardholders) who have been permitted to purchase medicines from open market has been delegated by the Government to the respective Additional Directors/ Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

(d) The reason for the strikes cited by the authorised local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate.

In so far as payment of bills by the CGHS to the local chemist is concerned, the CGHS starts processing their bills after it is received in the office of Additional Director/Joint Director. After obtaining the necessary approvals, payment is made to the chemist subject to availability of funds. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS authorised local chemists.

*[Translation]*

#### **Distorted Publications by Pakistan**

1046. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several publications of Pakistan show Junagarh and Manavadar areas of Gujarat as "disputed Pakistani areas";

(b) if so, the veracity or otherwise of the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Pakistani textbooks and documents are known to contain several inaccuracies and distortions about India and its international boundaries.

(c) Pakistan is well aware of India's firm and consistent position and the reality that Junagarh and Manavadar are an integral part of India.

#### **Nuclear Energy Programme**

1047. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a three stage nuclear energy programme on the basis of indigenous nuclear fuel sources to provide long-term energy security to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

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

(b) The details of the three-stage nuclear power programme are:

- Natural uranium fuelled Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in the first stage.
- Fast Breeder Reactors utilising uranium-plutonium fuel cycle in the second state.
- Breeder Reactors for utilisation of thorium, in the third state.

The three stage of the programme have fuel cycle linkages and have to be gone through sequentially.

(c) There are 14 nuclear power reactors in operation in the country 12 of which are PHWRs. In addition, 9 power reactors are under construction 6 of which are PHWRs. India has achieved maturity in the first stage of the programme. The beginning of the second stage of the programme has been made with the commencement of construction of a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu in 2003. The third stage of the programme will be launched after a sizeable base capacity has been built of the second stage reactors.

*[English]*

#### **Poor Sanitation in Government Hospitals**

1048. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether due to poor sanitation the infection cases are increasing in Government Hospitals in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No increase of infection cases due to poor sanitation is reported in Central Govt. Hospitals viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital & LHMC & its associated hospitals, AIIMS etc. There is an Infection Control Committee in existence in all the Central Government Hospitals which ensure strict implementation of prevention of hospital acquired infections. The Committee monitors and reviews the prevalence of Hospital Infections regularly in various hospital areas and suggests the appropriate methods to prevent and control the hospital-acquired infections. Surveillance of the environment and sterility measure are carried. The hospital personnel are trained to take all precautionary measure regarding the infection control practice. The hospital waste is disposed off as per the guidelines contained in Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to take appropriate actions to reduce the number of cases of infection due to poor sanitation in their hospitals.

#### Works on National Highway 60

1049. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the works undertaken on the Kharagpur-Balasore portion of National Highway-60 during the last three years;

(b) the funds spent for the said works during the said period; and

(c) the time by which the improvement and widening works along with bridges of the above mentioned sector of NH-60 are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The National Highways Authority of India is developing Balasore-Kharagpur portion of NH-60 to 4/8 lane facility in the State of Orissa and West Bengal as a part of the Golden Quadrilateral component of the National Highways Development Project.

(b) During the last three years Rs. 475.78 crores has been spent on the said work.

(c) The work is targeted for completion by June, 2005.

#### Recruitment in BSNL

1050. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates recruited in group "C" and "D" by direct recruitment during the last three years in the Uttar Pradesh (West) circle of BSNL, year wise;

(b) the number of candidates appointed on compassionate ground during the last two years in Uttar Pradesh (West) circle of BSNL; and

(c) the number of SC/ST/OBC candidates recruited during the last three years, category-wise in the said Circle?

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

Year	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
2001-02	Nil	Nil
2002-03	Nil	Nil
2003-04	109	Nil

(b) 2002-03 86  
2002-04 23

Year	SC	ST	OBC
2001-02	Nil	Nil	Nil
2002-03	26	Nil	13
2003-04	26	02	26

#### Land Acquisition

1051. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition of four laning of N.H.-5 from Khurdha Road to the border of Andhra Pradesh and Balasore to the border of West Bengal has been completed;

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

(c) the steps taken to expedite the land acquisition work?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Condition of National Highways in Orissa**

1052. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways passing through Orissa;

(b) whether the Government is aware that some of them are damaged and require immediate attention;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds required therefor and the allocation made by the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the time by which all the damaged National Highways are likely to be reconstructed or upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 16 National Highways with Nos. 5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 75 (Extn.), 200, 201, 203, 203 (Extn.), 203A, 215, 217 & 224 in the State of Orissa having a total length of 3603 km. This includes about 403 km of highways which have been declared as National Highways with Nos. 75 (Extn.), 203 (Extn.), 203A & 224 in February 2004 but are yet to be handed over to National Highways.

(b) and (c) National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition as per available funds. Roads declared as National Highways in Orissa after 1997 particularly NH Nos. 200, 201, 215 & 217 have inadequate pavement thickness and width and require frequent maintenance.

(d) During the last three years fund allotted for development and maintenance of National Highways in Orissa was as follows?

Year	Allocation (Rs. crores)	
	Development Works	Maintenance & Repair Works
2001-2002	60.0	48.88
2002-2003	44.00	42.37
2003-2004	68.00	42.57

Maintenance funds are about 40% of the requirement and funds for development works matches with sanctions.

(e) Development and maintenance of National Highways including their upgradation is a continuous process.

#### **Computerisation of Post Offices in AP**

1053. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY:

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

(a) the number of post offices in Andhra Pradesh where computers have been installed and registration through computers has been started during the last three years;

(b) the names of the computerised post offices, district-wise and

(c) the post offices that are proposed to be computerised and start registration through computers during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During the last three years, computers have been installed in 9 Post offices in Andhra Pradesh and registration (i. counter operations) through computers has been started in these Post Offices.

(b) 111 Post Offices have been computerised so far in Andhra Pradesh and the names of the computerized Post Offices, district-wise, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Subject to the availability of funds and necessary approval, it is proposed to computerize 61 Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year.



**Statement****Computerised Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh Circle**

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Name of the Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	1. Adilabad HO 2. Mancherial HO
2.	Anantapur	3. Anantapur HO 4. Guntakal Ho 5. Hindupur HO 6. Dharmavaram HO 7. Prashantinilayam SO
3.	Chittoor	8. Chittoor HO 9. Tirupathi HO 10. Madanapalli HO 11. Srikalahasti HO 12. Chandragiri HO
4.	Cuddapah	13. Cuddapah HO 14. Proddatur HO 15. Rajampeta HO
5.	East Godavari	16. Ramahmundry HO 17. Ramachandrapuram HO 18. Amalapuram HO 19. Kakinada HO 20. Samalkot HO
6.	Guntur	21. Guntur HO 22. Tenali HO 23. Guntur Collectorate SO 24. Kothapet SO 25. Guntur Bazar SO

1	2	3
7.	Hyderabad	26. Hyderabad GPo 27. Khairatabad HO 28. Stn. Kachiguda HO 29. Secunderabad HO 30. Hyderabad Jubilee HO 31. Sanath Nagar IE SO 32. Begumbazar SO 33. Himayatnagar SO 34. Putlibowli SO 35. Secretariat SO 36. Banjara Hills SO 37. Musheerabad SO 38. Begumpet SO 39. Kingsway SO 40. Jama-I Osmania SO 41. New Nallakunta SO 42. High Court SO 43. Malakpet Colony SO 44. Lallaguda SO 45. Railnilayam SO 46. Himmatnagar SO 47. Nehrunagar SO 48. Hyderabad Air Port SO 49. Parsharambhavan SO 50. LIC Division SO 51. Humayunnagar SO 52. Vijayanagar Colony SO 53. SR Nagar SO 54. Srinagar Colony SO 55. Jubilee Hills SO

1	2	3
8.	Karimnagar	56. Karimnagar HO 57. Peddapalli HO 58. Jagtial HO 59. Sirsilla SO
9.	Khammam	60. Khammam HO 61. Kothagudem Collieries HO 62. Bhadrachalam HO
10.	Krishna	63. Machilipatnam HO 64. Vijayawada HO 65. Buckinghampet HO 66. Venkateswarapuram SO 67. Gandhinagaram SO 68. Machavaram SO 69. Vijayawada Railway Jn. SO
11.	Kurnool	70. Kurnool HO 71. Nandyal HO
12.	Mahabubnagar	72. Mahabubnagar HO 73. Gadwal HO 74. Wanaparthy HO
13.	Medak	75. Medak HO 76. Siddipet HO 77. Sangareddy HO 78. Ramachandrapuram HE SO 79. Zaheerabad HO
14.	Nalgonda	80. Nalgonda HO 81. Bhongir HO 82. Suryapet HO 83. Miryalguda HO

1	2	3
15.	Nellore	84. Nellore HO 85. Gudur HO 86. SHAR HO
16.	Nizamabad	87. Nizamabad HO 88. Kamareddy HO 89. Armoor HO
17.	Prakasam	90. Ongole HO 91. Chirala HO
18.	Rangareddy	92. P&T Colony SO 93. Vanasthalipuram SO 94. Trimulgherry HO 95. ECIL SO 96. Balanagar TS SO 97. Kukatpatilly SO 98. IDA Jeedimetla SO
19.	Srikakulam	99. Srikakulam HO 100. Tekkali HO
20.	Visakhapatnam	101. Vishakhapatnam HO 102. Waltair RS HO 103. Gajuwaka SO 104. Naval Base SO 105. Anakapalli HO
21.	Vizianagaram	106. Vizianagaram HO 107. Parvathipuram HO
22.	Warangal	108. Warangal HO 109. Hanamakonda HO 110. Mahabubabad HO
23.	West Godavari	111. Eluru HO

*[Translation]***Mobile Phone Facility**

1054. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to provide facilities to people in inaccessible backward and remote rural hilly areas through satellite;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to provide mobile phone facility in inaccessible, backward and remote rural hilly areas of Uttaranchal district-wise;

(c) the places where mobile phone Towers have been sanctioned; and

(d) the time by which mobile phone facility is likely to be made available to these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Rural Network (RN) Cell of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide telephone facilities in inaccessible, backward and remote rural areas through Satellite as per details given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) having extended its mobile services upto District Headquarters has planned to extend the same up to Tehsil HQ during the current financial year. Although remote areas are not specifically covered, extensive highway plans of BSNL has provided incidental coverage to remote areas falling along the highways. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is in the process of providing coverage in towns as per detail given in Statement-II during the current financial year.

**Statement I***Target for provision of Satellites Based VPTs*

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	No. of villages to be covered on satellite
1	2	3
1.	Assam	285
2.	Jharkhand	1686

1	2	3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	277
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	644
5.	Chhattisgarh	92
6.	North-East-I	1487
7.	North-East-II	3769
8.	Orissa	4899
9.	Uttaranchal	3548
10.	West Bengal	53
Total		16740

**Statement II***Details of Coverage for the Mobile Phone Facility by BSNL in the Towns during the Current Financial Year*

Sl.No.	Name of the town/city proposed to be covered	District
1.	Bhimtal	Nainital
2.	Jaspur, Gadarpur	Udham Singh Nagar
3.	Bhagarathipuram	Tehri
4.	Puroila, Barkot, Brahmkhal, Radi, Ranachatti & Janakichatti	Uttarkashi
5.	Tilwar, Augustmunni, Guptkashi, Gaurikund	Rudraprayag

*[English]***Performance of Ports**

1055. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the financial and operational performance of various major ports during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to modernise the activities of various major ports;

(d) if so, the specific steps taken in respect of Paradeep port; and

(e) the programmes drawn up therefor during the Tenth Plan period?

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

(b) The details of financial and operational

performance are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Modernisation of Major Ports is an on-going process to cope with the demands of maritime trade.

(d) and (e) An outlay of Rs. 159.49 crores has been allocated for the new schemes under the Tenth Five Year Plan for Paradip Port Trust as per the following details:

Sl.No.	Project	Tenth Plan Outlay (Rs. in crores)
(i)	Procurement of wharf crane	1.00
(ii)	Construction of lighthouse berth	12.00
(iii)	Extension of breakwater	20.00
(iv)	Construction of cargo berth in new dock area	1.00
(v)	Deepening of channel	99.99
(vi)	Incorporation of second stream at existing iron ore handling plant	10.00
(vii)	Replacement of floating crafts	3.50
(viii)	Replacement of wharf crane	12.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>159.49</b>

In addition to the above, there are two proposals, one each for construction of a berth for clean cargo and construction of a deep draft berth for iron ore on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

**Statement**

**I. Financial Performance of Major Ports**

*(Operating Surplus)*

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Port	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04**
1	2	3	4
Kandla	74.72	72.26	44.74
Mumbai	17.16	27.93	7.76

1	2	3	4
Jawaharlal Nehru	164.82	228.94	345.55
Mormugao	54.84	59.27	73.02
New Mangalore	86.32	106.38	114.99
Cochin	31.33	53.47	59.92
Tuticorin	58.96	63.60	59.84
Chennai	63.03	65.21	107.16
Visakhapatnam	171.34	209.88	231.21
Paradip	96.30	169.43	160.97
Kolkata	449.87	203.63	278.71
Ennore Port Ltd.	26.88*	67.41	46.72

**II. Operational Performance****A. Cargo Traffic Handled by Major Ports (2001-02 to 2002-03)**

(In Million Tonnes)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04**
1	2	3	4
Kandla	37.73	40.63	41.52
Mumbai	26.43	26.80	29.96
Jawaharlal Nehru	22.52	26.84	31.18
Mormugao	22.93	23.65	27.88
New Mangalore	17.50	21.43	26.67
Cochin	12.06	13.00	13.57

	1	2	3	4
Tuticorin		13.02	13.29	13.68
Chennai		36.12	33.69	36.71
Visakhapatnam		44.34	46.01	47.74
Paradip		21.13	23.90	25.31
Kolkata		5.37	7.20	8.69
Haldia		25.03	28.60	32.36
Ennore Port Ltd.		3.40*	8.49	9.28
<b>Total</b>		<b>287.58</b>	<b>313.53</b>	<b>344.55</b>

\*22nd June, 2001 to 31st March, 2002 (The Company commenced commercial operations on 22.6.2001)

\*\*Provisional.

**B. Selected Port Performance Indicators, 2000-01 to 2002-03**

Name of the Port	Average Pre-Berthing Detention (On Port A/c) (In Hours)			Average turn round time (In Days)			Average output per Ship Berthday (In Tonnes)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04**	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04**	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04**
Kandla	21.36	16.80	11.06	6.55	5.94	5.06	7761	8862	8659
Mumbai	7.68	3.60	3.64	5.47	5.06	4.07	3994	5170	5911
Jawaharlal Nehru	10.08	11.76	8.24	2.34	2.28	1.85	7437	8226	9845
Mormugao	32.16	19.92	26.71	2.04	1.94	4.47	14957	15370	16746
New Mangalore	5.99	4.41	3.07	2.73	2.37	2.35	12528	15939	17955
Cochin	4.20	1.67	4.02	2.37	2.19	2.22	5984	6837	7799
Tuticorin	10.56	7.20	1.60	4.11	3.59	2.52	3900	4403	5084
Chennai	26.00	4.30	0.91	5.30	3.70	4.85	7030	8416	9517
Visakhapatnam	5.76	3.12	1.18	3.51	3.72	3.33	10772	10591	11712
Paradip	11.04	10.32	5.14	3.99	3.37	3.43	8831	10763	10257
Kolkata	0.24	0.07	0.07	4.71	4.47	4.29	2215	2889	3384
Haldia	3.84	3.60	3.43	4.01	3.02	2.84	6438	7531	8280
Ennore Port Ltd.*	9.98	1.56	1.66	3.62	2.24	2.11	16742	26779	32777
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.53</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>3.69</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>7158</b>	<b>8455</b>	<b>9079</b>

\*Operational from 22.6.2001

\*\*Provisional.

**Short Supply of Measles Vaccines**

1056. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

- (a) whether the measles vaccines are out of stock in primary centers in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Indians Killed in Iraq**

1057. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Indians were also among those killed in the recent bomb attacks by US in Iraq;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Indians currently working in Iraq;
- (d) whether the issue regarding their safety has been taken up with the concerned authorities; and
- (e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Government is not aware of death of Indians in bomb attacks by US in Iraq.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) An estimated 5052 Indians are said to be working in Iraq currently.

(d) and (e) The matter of safety of Indians working in Iraq has been taken up with employers by our Missions in Baghdad, Kuwait and Jordan directly or through local American Mission. Employers have assured our Missions of adequate insurance and security arrangements for their Indian employees working in Iraq. Our Mission in Baghdad visits camps from time to time to meet the Indian workers and to address their concerns including security. Embassy in Baghdad has also arrangements to house at a time 50 Indian workers requiring shelter. Our Missions in Baghdad, Amman and Jordan are in contact with employers for ensuring safety and well being of the Indian workers.

*[English]*

**Boost to SSI Industries**

1058. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently taken steps to boost the Small Scale Industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount earmarked for the year 2004-05 in this regard;
- (d) whether any meeting with the representatives of SSI was held recently; and
- (e) if so, the problems/demands made by the representatives; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) It has been the conscious approach of the Government to promote and develop the small scale industries (SSI) sector. Accordingly, Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the SSI, as is evident by various measures announced from time to time. The Govt. announced a Comprehensive Policy Package in August, 2000 to strengthen the small scale industries sector and enhance its domestic and global competitiveness, which inter alia provides easier access to credit, availability of

collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, marketing support, capital subsidy for technological up-gradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, government and the Reserve Bank of India have also announced various other measures/incentives including instructions to Banks to provide credit to SSI at interest within a band of 2% plus minus their Prime Lending Rate (PLR), introduction of Laghu Udyami Card Scheme, selective enhancement of investment limits in respect of high-tech and export oriented items to enable SSIs to compete successfully.

(c) An amount of Rs. 428.00 crores has been earmarked for the year 2004-05 in this regard.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The meeting of the 48th SSI Board which is comprised representatives of Central Government, Financial Institutions, State/UT Ministers of SSI, Central/State level industrial associations, etc. was held on 17th January, 2004. The problems raised in it relate to credit, simplification of rules and regulations, marketing, modernisation and infrastructure. Concerns expressed by the stakeholders are taken into consideration while designing support measures for promotion and development of SSI Sector.

*[Translation]*

**Release of Civilian Indian Prisoners from Pak Jails**

1059 SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:  
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement to release all civilian Indian prisoners within a stipulated time frame was entered into by India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the status of the agreement at present; and

(c) the time by which the prisoners are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) During the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004 it was agreed that "steps would be initiated for early release of civilian prisoners".

(c) The procedure for the release of the civilian prisoners involves the grant of consular access to the detainees. Their nationality is confirmed by their respective Government on the basis of information collected during the consular access. After confirmation of nationality and completion of the jail terms, the detainees are released and repatriated.

*[English]*

**Condition of National Highways in Maharashtra**

1060 SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the bad condition of National Highways in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued some instructions to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent during 2003-2004 on the maintenance and upkeep of National Highways in the State alongwith the names of places where the said amount has been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The National Highways in Maharashtra are in traffic worthy condition.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 5559.84 lacs have been spent on maintenance and upkeep of entire National Highways network in Maharashtra during 2003-2004 except for road declared as National Highway in February 2004. List of districts through which these National Highways pass is given in the enclosed Statement.

***Statement***

Sl.No.	District	National Highway No.
1	2	3
1.	Thane	3
2.	Raighad	4B, 4c, 17
3.	Ratnagiri	17, 204

1	2	3
4.	Sindhudurg	17
5.	Nashik	3, 50
6.	Dhule	3, 6, 211
7.	Jalgaon	6, 211
8.	Nandurbar	6
9.	Ahmednagar	50
10.	Osmanabad	9, 211
11.	Pune	9, 50
12.	Solapur	9, 13
13.	Sangli	4
14.	Satara	4
15.	Kolhapur	204
16.	Beed	211
17.	Jalna	211
18.	Aurangabad	211
19.	Gondia	6
20.	Bhandara	6
21.	Nagpur	6, 7, 69
22.	Wardha	6, 7
23.	Amrawati	6
24.	Akola	6
25.	Buldana	6
26.	Yawatmal	7

*[Translation]*

#### Mobile Phone Service

1061. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:  
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the mobile telephone service has not been provided/introduced in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the districts in the country for which mobile service has been approved;

(c) the reasons for not introducing the said service in these areas;

(d) the time by which the remaining parts of the country are likely to be provided this facility; and

(e) the funds allocated therefor and the position of the required equipment in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Department of Telecommunications as a licencer has granted licences to Public Sector Undertakings namely, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. & Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and various other Private Operators to provide mobile services in the whole Country. As such Mobile services have been approved for all the districts in the whole Country. As such Mobile services have been approved for all the districts in the country except those falling in the buffer zone i.e. within 10 Km of International borders. As on 30.06.2004, 569 District Head Quarters out of total 593 District Head Quarters in the country have been provided with Cellular Mobile Service. The remaining districts mostly fall within the buffer zone and the coverage in these districts has also been planned by the part of the Country can be specified at this stage.

(e) The allocation of funds and desired equipment for the further expansion of mobile services entirely depends on the business plan of the Service Providers.

*[English]*

#### Impact of DDT on Health and Environment

1062. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDT is used for pest control as well as in the Malaria control programme by Government agencies in the country;

(b) if so, whether any norms have been fixed for the use of DDT;

(c) if so, the details of consumption of DDT for the last three years;



(d) whether international agencies, namely WHO, have been advising against the use of DDT due to its harmful consequences on the human health and environment;

(e) if so, whether DDT is envisaged to be replaced in Malaria control programme;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) DDT 50% wdp is used in public health programme as indoor residual spray for control of malaria and kala-azar. Use of DDT in agriculture has been withdrawn.

Use of DDT for public health programme has been restricted to 10,000 MT per annum except in case of any major outbreak. A high level group constituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare mandates use of DDT in public health programmes annually.

(c) The quantity of DDT supplied for the control of malaria and kala-azar during last three year is as under:

Year	Quantity for malaria control	Quantity for kala-azar control	Total
2001-02	5774 MT	376 MT	6150
2002-03	5800 MT	242 MT	6042
2003-04	6000 MT	2208 MT	8208

(d) to (f) The WHO has not advised banning of DDT as indoor residual spray (IRS) for malaria control. (Indoor Residual Spray) is done selectively in high risk pockets only. Other insecticides namely Malathion and Synthetic Pyrethroids are used in DDT resistant areas.

*[Translation]*

#### Review of Criteria for Telephone Rentals

1063. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the criteria for the classification of rural and urban area for determining the telephone rentals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No review of criteria for the classification of rural and urban area for determining the telephone rentals is under consideration at present.

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

(c) The classification is based on sound criterion.

*[English]*

#### Laying of G.T. Road from Jalandhar to Amritsar

1064. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laying of G.T. Road from Jalandhar to Amritsar has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the work of laying the said road is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to 4-laning of Jalandhar-Amritsar section of National Highway no. 1. Bids for four laning of the reach from km. 387.10 to 407.10 have been invited but the work could not be awarded so far due to administrative reasons. For the remaining length, tenders have been invited on BOT basis, recently.

(c) 4-laning of the G.T. Road from Jalandhar (km. 387.10) to Amritsar (km. 456.10) is targeted to be completed by December 2007.

#### Highway Development in A.P.

1065. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for National Highway Development under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the priorities of the Government in the region of Telangana of Andhra Pradesh regarding highway development;

(d) whether any highway has been identified in the Telangana region for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Widening, strengthening, improvement of riding quality, improvement of geometrics, reconstruction of bridges and construction

of bypasses on National Highways is a continuous process and is being taken up in phased manner on National Highway network in the country.

(c) to (e) Telangana region has National Highway (NH) No. 7, 9, 16, 202, 221 and 222. NH 7 from km 175/6 to 485/0 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) and km 0/0 to 203/0 (Hyderabad-Bangalore Section) is being 4-laned under North-South Corridor of National Highway Development Project. On other National Highway passing through this region 22 no. of works sanctioned for Rs. 7757.39 lakh involving widening to 2/4 lane, feasibility study, land acquisition, reconstruction of bridges and paved shoulders are in progress. The list is enclosed as statement.

(f) Does not arise.

**Statement**

(in Telangana Region)

Sl. No.	N.H. No.	Name of the Work	Job Number/Date of Sanction	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	202	Carrying out feasibility study and preparation of detailed project report for construction of Major bridge across river Godavari and realignment of N.H. 202 from Eturunagaram to A.P. State Border N.H. 202	202 AP 2002 178 Dt. 27-2-2002	48.74
2.	9	L.A. Estimate from Km 493/0 to 534/0 of PH section NH-9	009 AP 2002 233 Dt. 10-1-03	312.34
3.	9	Four laning from Km. 10/0 to 22/0 of H-V section, NH-9	009 AP 2003 235 Dt. 28-1-03	1194.9
4.	9	LA for four laning in Km. 182/5 to 222/450 of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section of NH-9	009 AP 2003 238 Dt. 5-3-03	359.14
5.	16	Widening 6 Nos of Minor Bridges in Km. 112/4-6, 113/6-8, 118/8-10, 127/2-4, 128/-0-2, 134/4-6 of N-J road	016 AP 2002 240 Dt. 11-3-03	71.75
6.	9	Widening to four lane from Km. 22/0 to 31/0 of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section of NH-9	009 AP 2003 243 Dt. 24-3-03	1128.85
7.	16	Widening to two lanes from Km. 190/0 to 199/0 of Nizamabad-Jagdulpur road of NH-16	016 AP 2003 245 Dt. 31-3-2003	264.51
8.	9	Providing Paved shoulders to Km 470/0 to 480/0 (except Km 478/0 to 479/0) of Pune-Hyderabad section of NH-9.	009 AP 2003 249 Dt. 14-7-03	166.47

1	2	3	4	5
9.	202	Widening carriageway from Km 205/0 to 215/0 of H-B road, NH 202	202 AP 2003 254 Dt. 18-8-03	258.62
10.	16	Paved shoulders from Km. 95/0 to 97/360 & 98/132 to 100/4 of NH 16.	016 AP 2003 260 dt. 24-9-03	60.61
11.	9	Paved shoulders to Km. 440/0 to 450/0 (except Km 440/680 to 442/800) of Ph Section NH-9	009 AP 2003 261 Dt. 24-9-03	209.45
12.	16	Reconstruction of Minor bridge at Km 7/0 of NH 16	016 AP 2003 263 Dt. 25-9-03	64.00
13.	9/H-V	Widening to 4 lane from Km 31/0 to 41/0 of H-V section NH-9.	009 AP 2003 280 Dt. 11-12-03	1413.12
14	9/H-V	LA for Kodad Bypass from Km 174/8 to 183/5 of H-V section of NH-9.	009 AP 2003 281 Dt. 24-12-03	334.87
15.	202	Re-construction of High Level Bridges in Km 55/6-8, 57/8-10 and 119/8-10 of NH 202	202 AP 2003 284 Dt. 6-1-04	298.00
16.	202	Re-construction of High Level Bridge in Km 88/2 of NH 202	202 AP 2003 286 Dt. 6-1-04	201.00
17.	9	Providing paved shoulders from Km 460 to 470/0 excluding Km 462/2 to 463/8 and Km 466/3 to 467/0 of P-H section of NH-9	009 AP 2003 290 Dt. 21-1-04	171.00
18.	16	Rec-construction of 6 nos of Minor Bridges at Km 80/8, 90/10, 91/10, 94/10, 78/6 and 94/2 of N-J road of NH-16	016 AP 2003 291 Dt. 21-1-04	151.00 28.00
19.	16	Culvert in Km 182/2-4 and 187/0-2 of NH-16	018 AP 2003 295 Dt. 23-1-04	28.00
20.	202	Re-Construction of Minor Bridge at Km 144/8-10 of NH 202	202 AP 2004 299 Dt. 4-02-04	38.48
21.	202	Spot Widening from Km. 111/0 to 113/0 of NH 202	202 AP 2004 300 Dt. 4-02-04	35.84
22.	202	Widening to 4-lane from Km 9/0 to 18/740 of NH-202	202 AP 2004 303 Dt. 23-02.04	946.70
Total				7757.39

**Development of Rural Industries in North-Eastern Region**

1066. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural clusters have been identified for developing rural industries in Assam and other North Eastern States under the National Programme on rural industrialisation;

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

(c) the present status of the projects under the Programme and the amount spent by the Government for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) Under the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation, 10 rural industrial clusters have been identified for development in North Eastern States. The

present status of each of these clusters, location-wise, is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the Cluster and Location	Funds Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Activities Undertaken
1.	Muga Silk Cluster by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in Dhemaji District of Assam	4.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Construction of Cocoon Bank Building</li> <li>* Purchase of Spinning and reeling machine</li> <li>* 240 person in rearing and plantation trained</li> <li>* 12 bigha land acquired for Som plantation and the Block Development Office has also allotted 22 bighas for Som plantation.</li> </ul>
2.	Brass Metal Craft Cluster in Jorhat, Assam by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	0.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* diagnostic study conducted</li> <li>* Cluster Development Committee constituted</li> <li>* skill Upgradation Training of artisans conducted</li> <li>* 32 units have been developed</li> <li>* Training programme completed for formation of Co-operative Societies and Self Help Groups</li> </ul>
3.	Cane and bamboo Craft Cluster, Nagaon, Assam by NABARD	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Awareness meet and Orientation Programme for artisans conducted</li> </ul>
4.	Wood Craft Cluster in Detzhephe Village, Dimapur, Nagaland by NABARD	0.70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Funds sanctioned for awareness tour of 25 artisans and 2 officials of Nagaland Handloom and Handicraft Corporation Ltd. to Ghaziabad and Saharanpur (U.P.) organized</li> </ul>
5.	Tera Cotta Cluster of Dhubri Distt., Assam by the Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Assam	0.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Diagnostic study being conducted</li> </ul>
6.	Sitalpatti Cluster of Karimganj Distt., Assam by the Directorate of Industries, Govt. of Assam	0.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Diagnostic study being conducted</li> </ul>
7.	Handmade paper cluster of Tawang Distt., Arunachal Pradesh by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)	9.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Demonstration and training in Handmade paper for upgrading traditional process of handmade paper making</li> </ul>
8.	Handmade paper cluster of Jorhat, Assam by KVIC	20.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Installation of Handmade paper and demonstration &amp; training unit using local material.</li> </ul>
9.	Forest based industries cluster in Sitchar, Assam	2.54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Improving the quality of various cane &amp; bamboo activities</li> </ul>
10.	Pottery cluster of Jorhat, Assam by KVC	11.68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Providing Ball bearing wheels, kilns to potters in Majauli Island.</li> </ul>

**Lowest Tele-Density States**

1067. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of lowest tele-density States in the country; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to improve the situation and to expand the existing capacity of various telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Three lowest teledensity States in the country (and their teledensity as on 31-05-2004) are as given below:

(i)	Chattisgarh	—	1.48
(ii)	Jharkhand	—	1.65
(iii)	Bihar	—	1.83

(b) To improve the situation, Government has adopted Universal Access Service Licensing (UASL) under which service provider can provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology. With the, service provider can provider complete mobility using WLL which was earlier classified as Basic Service.

BSNL alone has planned to provide 1 crore telephone connection in year 2004-05. This includes 7.5 lakh landline, 22.5 lakh WLL connections and 70 lakh Cellular Mobile connections. The Circle-wise details of telephone connections planned by BSNL for 2004-05 are given in the Statement enclosed. It is expected that with the participation of private sector and utilisation of Universal Service Obligation Fund, the teledensity in such States would also improve.

**Statement****Circle-wise DELs target of BSNL for 2004-05**

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	DELs Target
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	438300
2.	Chhattisgarh	102900

1	2	3
3.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	586600
4.	Assam	213600
5.	West Bengal	532000
6.	Jharkhand	151000
7.	Madhya Pradesh	332200
8.	Orissa	319200
9.	North East-2	23000
10.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	362500
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	102100
12.	North East-1	116800
13.	Rajasthan	641700
14.	Andhra Pradesh	639700
15.	Uttaranchal	139900
16.	Maharashtra	965500
17.	Tamilnadu	548600
18.	Karnataka	434400
19.	Haryana	375000
20.	Gujarat	663000
21.	Himachal Pradesh	147700
22.	Punjab	548000
23.	Kolkata	351700
24.	Kerala	1018000
25.	Andaman & Nicobar	9900
26.	Chennai	238700
Total:		10000000

**Waiting List of Telephone Connections**

1068. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people waiting for telephone connections in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications received during the last three years and the number of new connections issued during the same period, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken for the expansion of landline, Mobile and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Private Operator (Basic/USAL & Cellular) and MTNL do not have any waiting list i.e. they are able to provide telephone on demand to the customers. The Circle-wise details of waiting list for telephone connections with BSNL as on 31.03.2004 are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Circle-wise details about number of application received and number of new connection issued during the last three years are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) The generation of demand for telephone connections is a healthy and continuous phenomenon which keeps adding to the waiting list. A target date for clearing waiting list (a dynamic process) cannot be set as the demand for telephones could be from places where there may not be telecom infrastructure in that particular period. However, to clear the waiting list, BSNL has planned one crore telephones during 2004-05.

**Statement I**

*Circle-wise waiting list as on 31.03.2004  
(in respect of BSNL)*

Sl.No.	Name of the Circles	Waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	151
2.	Andhra Pradesh	51934
3.	Assam	15797

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	112465
5.	Chhattisgarh	2118
6.	Gujarat	58847
7.	Haryana	81657
8.	Himachal Pradesh	44935
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	39704
10.	Jharkhand	8143
11.	Karnataka	89730
12.	Kerala	419762
13.	Madhya Pradesh	17300
14.	Maharashtra	159004
15.	North East-I	5975
16.	North East-II	5387
17.	Orissa	27713
18.	Punjab	92284
19.	Rajasthan	138019
20.	Tamilnadu	58995
21.	Uttaranchal	5729
22.	UP (East)	101771
23.	UP (West)	43670
24.	West Bengal	144226
25.	Kolkata	22720
26.	Chennai	6929
<b>Total</b>		<b>1754965</b>

**Statement II**

*Number of applications received and number of new connections issued  
(in respect of BSNL)*

Sl.No.	Name of the Circles	No. of application received during			No. of new connections issued during		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	2639	4862	6394	4339	6279	7694
2.	Andhra Pradesh	232562	327969	304794	591684	825361	778051
3.	Assam	73314	67125	53092	92535	73541	80856
4.	Bihar	221944	189233	154910	252337	181983	198401
5.	Chhattisgarh	27516	49871	42281	49496	68184	61071
6.	Gujarat	274858	404634	8946	587866	584669	398840
7.	Haryana	159749	191162	159728	209595	209503	231177
8.	Himachal Pradesh	72738	74533	59376	96691	61345	91831
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	49836	44786	60408	52224	49118	75190
10.	Jharkhand	69742	94863	101183	84215	106456	120385
11.	Karnataka	268219	361591	113776	551751	545437	436482
12.	Kerala	341187	435400	339337	576585	583716	499319
13.	Madhya Pradesh	114844	173720	159084	174772	226266	234439
14.	Maharashtra	522468	584135	342786	807039	799152	815913
15.	North East-I	23013	23600	24771	29689	26261	31683
16.	North East-II	19614	18049	23580	32483	25641	29943
17.	Orissa	83990	133062	156625	142556	131634	204345
18.	Punjab	227048	328254	95025	408014	338850	267806
19.	Rajasthan	255977	243782	222266	320096	269451	327593
20.	Tamilnadu	193586	283252	222464	443474	509486	523654
21.	Uttaranchal	39163	60947	81070	63546	63895	112724
22.	UP (East)	257885	301735	167791	308512	301683	292691
23.	UP (West)	144684	216897	200545	237112	245352	304704
24.	West Bengal	220875	225407	161717	258581	228570	205370

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Kolkata	98387	46002	59635	131711	127641	165801
26.	Chennai	88645	43161	86185	144011	116590	223553
	Total	4084489	4928032	3407769	6650894	6568064	6719516

### Siddha System

1069. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the matter with Defence and Railway Authorities etc. for increasing the use of Siddha system of medicine; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

### Shifting Location of FFDC

1070. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Project of Fragrance Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) was proposed to be set up during 10th Plan in the North-East India;

(b) if so, whether the proposed Centre has been shifted to Dholpur (Rajasthan);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the Government proposes to compensate the loss suffered by the people of N/E region as a result of shifting?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Display of Contents Label

1071. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that majority of the carbonated drinks do not display contents label on the bottles/packs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No specific information has been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alleging non-display of contents label on the bottles/packs of carbonated drinks. Under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Rules made thereunder, it is mandatory to display contents on the label of every package of food including bottle/packs of carbonated water. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA Act, 1954) and the rules made thereunder are enforced by the State/U.T. Governments within their respective State/Union Territory.

Non-compliance of the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and rules made there under attract the penal provisions of the said Act. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T. Governments have been requested from time to time to enforce the provisions of the PFA Act and Rules strictly.

### One Child/Two Child Norm Policy

1072. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce one child/two child norm policy for family in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present birth rate and death rate in our country;



(d) whether the Government proposes to provide health card to every citizen in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present birth rate and death rate in the country are as follows:

Birth Rate	Death Rate
25.0	8.1

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Promotion of SSI Units

1073. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to promote small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether comprehensive package of proposals have been drawn up to promote the small scale sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the views of the State Governments have been sought in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) It has been the conscious approach of the Government to promote and develop the small scale industries (SSI) sector. Accordingly, Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the SSIs as is evident by various measures announced from time to time. The Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package in August,

2000 to strengthen the small scale industries sector and enhance its domestic and global competitiveness, which inter alia provides easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, marketing support, capital subsidy for technological up-gradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, Government and the Reserve Bank of India have also announced various other measures/incentives including instructions to Banks to provide credit to SSI at interest within a band of 2% plus minus their Prime Lending Rate (PLR), introduction of Laghu Udyami Card Scheme, selective enhancement of investment limits in respect of high-tech export oriented items to enable SSIs to compete successfully.

(e) and (f) Consultation with the State Governments is a continuous process. There are different forums for consultation, which include SSI Board, wherein Ministers for SSI of each State/UT is a member. One such review took place on 25th June, 2004, in which all policies and programmes concerning the Sector at State/Central level were reviewed.

[*Translation*]

#### Financial Package to Bihar

1074. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government has sought any special package for the economic development of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bihar Government had sought a special package for economic development of the State.

(b) After conducting wide-ranging consultations with the representatives of State Government of Bihar and with the peoples' representatives of Bihar State, a Special Plan has been formulated for implementation under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) with 100% Central. Under this plan, the following project have been identified for implementation:

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

As per the advice of the State Government, the first four items are being taken up on priority.

(c) The assistance will be provided during the Tenth Plan period.

#### **Dilapidated Condition of National Highway No. 24**

1075. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the dilapidated condition of National Highway No. 24;

(b) if so, whether efforts are being made by the Government for widening and properly constructing the National Highway No. 24;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway No. 24 is in traffic worthy condition.

(b) to (d) This National Highway is already four lane from Delhi to Hapur. Four laning of Hapur-Moradabad section of NH is targeted to be completed by December, 2007. Lucknow-Sitapur section of this NH has been identified for four laning under Built Operate & Transfer

(B.O.T.) scheme, which is targeted to be completed by December, 2008 subject to response of the bids under BOT.

*[English]*

#### **Software Parks**

1076. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of software parks set up in the country as on date, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up some more software parks during the Tenth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on date, 40 Software Technology Park of India (STPI) Centres have been set up in the country under the aegis of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Tenth Plan (2002-07) it was envisaged that 25 more STPI Centres would be set up at various locations. During the first two years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04, STPI has set up 5 new Centres at Pondicherry,

Nashik, Allahabad, Kolhapur and Ranchi. The following 15 more locations have been approved for implementation:

Sl.No.	STPI Centres	States
1.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Agartala	Tripura
3.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Durgapur	West Bengal
5.	Gangtok	Sikkim
6.	Goa	Goa
7.	Gurgaon	Haryana
8.	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Imphal	Manipur
10.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Jodhpur	Rajasthan
12.	Kharagpur	West Bengal
13.	Shillong	Meghalaya
14.	Patiala	Punjab
15.	Patna	Bihar

**Statement**

*State-wise and Location-wise STPI Centres*

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.	Assam	Guwahati
7.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
8.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore
13.		Hubli
14.		Mangalore
15.		Manipal
16.		Mysore
17.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
19.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
20.		Nagpur
21.		Nasik
22.		Navi Mumbai
23.		Kolhapur
24.		Pune
25.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
26.		Rourkela
27.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
28.	Punjab	Mohali
29.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
30.	Tamilnadu	Chennai
31.		Coimbatore
32.		Madurai
33.		Thirunelveli
34.		Trichy
35.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
36.		Lucknow
37.		Noida
38.		Allahabad
39.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
40.	West Bengal	Kolkata

*[Translation]*

**Prices of Items in Kendriya Bhandar**

1077. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 3939 dated April, 19, 2000 and state:

(a) whether any action has been taken against the purchase committee/officials for the prices found to be higher in Kendriya Bhandar than open market; 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 PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Complaints regarding higher prices in Kendriya Bhandar than in the open market are investigated as necessary. According to information received from Kendriya Bhandar no action has been taken in any such case against a purchase Committee Member.

**Delay in Issuance of Passports**

1078. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the delay in issuing passports within the prescribed time limit at Surat Passport Office;

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

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

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

(b) There are several reasons for delay in issue of passports such as increase in number of passport applications, submission of incomplete information by the passport applicants, delay in receipt of police verification and shortage of staff.

(c) Several measures are taken by Government from time to time to eliminate pendencies in issue of passports. These include special drives to eliminate pendencies in delay cases by deploying additional staff from other

passport offices, computerisation, decentralisation of submission of passport applications to district level, machine writing of passports and expediting police verification.

*[English]*

**Costly Equipment in AIIMS**

1079. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIIMS has been acquiring equipment costing crores of rupees without putting them to larger gainful use;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to scan costly purchases of equipment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Equipments procured by AIIMS are being utilized for patient care services gainfully.

**Seminars and Training Organised by Small Industries Service Institute**

1080. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Service Institute is organizing a number of seminars and training courses in the country in the information technology field;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objectives thereof;

(c) whether the charges are high for such courses;

(d) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of persons availing of the benefits of such courses during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make such courses relevant and widely available?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) are conducting a

number of Training Programmes in the various fields of Information Technology. Such Programmes inter alia, include MS Office, Database (Oracle 8i), programming Languages, Unix Operating System and Networking, Web/ designing, Multi Media, etc. with a view to train/educate small scale entrepreneurs and their workforce to enable them to harness the immense benefits available through the usage of the various facets of Information Technology to achieve enhancement in productivity, marketability, etc. besides cutting costs to keep them globally competitive.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The charges levied in most cases are quite reasonable in comparison to those being charged by other institutions engaged in conducting similar Programmes in the private/public sector.

(e) On an average around 7,000 persons per year including entrepreneurs and their workforce have been trained by SISIs during the last three years.

(f) Ministry of Small Scale Industries is gearing up its field instructions spread all over the country to organize a greater number of Programmes in the field of Information Technology viz. Web Technology, Microsoft networking, Ninux, CAD/CAM, e-Commerce, etc.

#### **Guidelines for Recruitment**

1081. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and DOT are following the guidelines for recruitment in class "C" & "D" as laid down by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the salient features of these guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There are prescribed guidelines for recruitment to class "C" & "D" posts. These guidelines cover the percentage of reservation, age and qualifications etc. applicable to various posts and the manner in which recruitment is to be made. As per the latest instructions, before resorting to recruitment/appointment, it is also necessary to get the vacancies cleared by the Screening Committee constituted for this purpose. Recruitment to

class "C" posts is made on the basis of open competitive examination conducted by Staff Selection Commission. This Department reports vacancies to DOP&T and appointment is made on the basis of nominations of qualified candidates from the said competitive exam, sent by DOP&T. As per instructions the Group 'D' employment is made through open advertisement/employment exchange.

In respect of BSNL need based recruitments are being done in accordance with the concerned Recruitment Rules. DOP&T guidelines are being followed with regard to Reservation Policy.

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

#### **Expansion of Coastal Shipping Operation In Gujarat**

1082. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the expansion of coastal shipping operation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken for the expansion of Gujarat coastal shipping in 2004-05; and

(d) the details of the areas identified therefor and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government of India is contemplating a general policy for promotion of Coastal Shipping in India. However, no separate steps have been taken for expansion of coastal shipping in Gujarat in particular.

#### **Providing Telephone In Village Panchayat**

1083. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for providing telephone connections in every village Panchayat in Andhra Pradesh, has not been achieved so far;

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

(c) the time by which telephone connections to every Panchayat is likely to be provided in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) BSNL has completed its share of providing public telephones in all Panchayat villages of Andhra Pradesh. As per the present policy, all revenue villages are to be covered by Village Public Telephones. The 1451 eligible villages remaining uncovered are expected to be covered by 31.3.2006.

### **Policy on Broadband**

1084. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended a broadband policy;

(b) if so, whether the authority has finalised the recommendations and submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations made by the TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have submitted the recommendations to the Government on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband penetration.

(c) Details regarding the TRAI recommendations are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The recommendations are under examination by the Government and would be implemented in consultation with TRAI.

### ***Statement***

#### ***Details regarding the TRAI recommendations on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband Penetration***

#### **1. Definition and goals**

- Broadband is an "An always-on data connection that is able to support various interactive

services, and has the capability of a minimum download speed of 256 Kbps." This will be revised upwards in the future.

- India can achieve 20 million broadband and 40 million internet subscribers by 2010, which translate to penetration levels of 1.7% and 3.4%, respectively. This is a bare minimum target and will need to be upgraded as progress is made.

#### **2. Access to the customer in the last mile**

- Enabling the use of the existing infrastructure on the incumbents' copper to reach customers via Digital Subscriber Loop (DSL).
- Decreasing artificial costs in the operation of Direct to Home (DTH) and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) platforms, while allowing broadband services to be offered via these technologies.
- Allowing terrestrial wireless solutions to spread more effectively as a means to reach customers with today's technologies, as well as those in the near future.
- Enabling right of way clearance systems to be further streamlines for both current and future build-out efforts.

#### **3. Costs of backhaul networks**

- Allowing customers to realize the benefits of competition in domestic leased lines while compensating for the current lack of such competition in "within city" links.
- Identifying the steps that need to be taken to make National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) effective and attractive for Internet Service Providers (ISP's) of all sizes to willingly participate.

#### **4. Fiscal policies**

- Encouraging the availability of low cost access devices through depreciation, donation and recycling of used Personal Computers (PC's).
- Decreasing to the level of duties on mobile phones the current overall levels of duties for imported items used in broadband networks, and equalizing duties. Growth of Internet and broadband on inputs and domestically manufactured goods with those that are imported.

- Providing the appropriate tax structure to enable faster growth, without the Government having to forego significant revenue.

#### 5. Creation of content and applications

- Outlining how the Government should proceed in being more aggressive in its efforts to create content and applications available online for interacting with citizens, and thereby serve as a leading example.

*[Translation]*

#### Land to Hospitals at Reduced Rate

1085. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of hospitals which have been given Government land at reduced rate in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) whether these hospitals had committed to make provision of at least 20% beds reserved for economically poor patients;

(c) if so, whether these hospitals are fulfilling their commitments; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken against such hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### Blacklisted Telecom Firms

1086. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action against the blacklisted telecom firms;

(b) if so, the names of the these firms; and

(c) the action taken against those firms, firm-wise, during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Selection of Private Hospitals by CGHS

1087. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the rules for selection of private hospitals under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to ensure that hospitals selected are scattered in different areas to help senior citizens?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There are no notified rules for recognition of private hospitals under CGHS. The terms and conditions for recognition of private hospitals/diagnostic centres under CGHS are given in the tender document which is posted on the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's website viz [www.mohfw.nic.in](http://www.mohfw.nic.in). The said tender document has inter-alia specified that private hospitals with 100 or more beds are eligible to apply and those with less than 100 beds are not eligible. The last date for receipt of tenders from the private hospitals/diagnostic centres for recognition under CGHS in the various CGHS cities was 27th/28th/29th April, 2004 since the advertisement issued by CGHS in the leading newspapers had stated that tenders would be received up to 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the respective cities.

The CGHS selects hospitals for recognition only out of the tenders received subject to fulfillment of the criteria given in the tender document, the recommendations of the Inspection Committee and approval by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

*[Translation]*

#### Protection of Indians in Gulf Countries

1088. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent terrorist attack on a hotel in Saudi Arabia wherein many people were killed and some of them taken hostage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons of Indian origin killed in the said attack; and

(c) the initiative taken by the Government for the protection of Indians working in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) On 29 May, terrorists attacked the Office of Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation in Al Khobar which was followed by hostage taking in the Oasis Housing Complex located close to the Corporation. 8 Indians were killed in the incident.

(c) The Government is closely monitoring security situation in the Gulf countries with particular attention being paid to developments that may have a bearing on security and well being of Indians working there. Our Missions in Gulf countries are in constant contact with concerned local authorities for the safety and security of the Indian community in their jurisdiction. The Missions are in regular contact with Indian communities in their respective countries for such assistance that may be possible to render in this regard.

#### **Ban on Gutka and Other Tobacco Products**

1089. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:  
SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing cases of mouth cancer in the country caused by the use of Gutka and other Tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering imposing a ban on the use of Gutka as also on the sale of tobacco and tobacco products at public places and educational institutions;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has a proposal to make a law to prohibit smoking;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has celebrated 'World No Tobacco Day' this year; and

(g) if so, the fresh initiatives taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) Being aware of the serious ill-effects of tobacco use, the Government enacted a comprehensive tobacco control legislation titled "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" in 2003 for discouraging the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products like Gutka etc. Some important provisions of the Act, which are applicable to whole of the country are:

- (i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place.
- (ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products.
- (iii) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.
- (iv) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.
- (v) Mandatory depiction of statutory warnings (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs.
- (vi) Mandatory depiction of tar and nicotine contents alongwith maximum permissible limits on tobacco packs.

The provisions of the Act mentioned at item (i), (ii), (iii) above have been brought into force w.e.f. 1.5.2004.

(f) and (g) "World No Tobacco Day" was observed on 31st May, 2004. A number of workshops/seminars and cultural activities were organized by the governmental and non-governmental agencies all over the country to publicise the ill-effects of tobacco and discourage its use.

*[Translation]*

#### **Telephone Connections to Registrants**

1090. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of the telephone exchange installed at Kamal Devi Nagar in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab;



(b) the total number of applications received for telephone connections during the last three years alongwith the number of telephone connections provided;

(c) the number of registrants at present on the waiting list of the said exchange; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total capacity of telephone exchanges installed in Kamal Davi Nagar of Hoshiarpur District of Punjab is as follows:

Landline Capacity	352
Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Capacity	400

(b) A total of 409 applications for Telephone connections were received during the last three years. 222 connections were provided during this period.

(c) The number of registrants at present in the waiting list is 316.

(d) Following are some of the steps taken by BSNL to clear the waiting list:

1. The Landline capacity has been increased from 304 to 352 and 40 new connections have been provided during the last month by laying underground cable.
2. To take care of hilly terrain for phone provisioning, 400 lines cordect WLL equipment has been installed and commissioned and provisioning of telephone connections is under way. Till date 100 WLL connections have been provided on this exchange area.

*[English]*

#### Promotion of Science and Technology

1091. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote science and technology in States through various centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes alongwith the financial assistance provided to each State under each scheme during the last three years;

(c) the achievements made under each scheme in each State during the above period; and

(d) the steps under consideration of the Government to promote the science and technology in the States?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government promotes Science & Technology in States through various measures, such as providing assistance to State Councils for Science & Technology, activities undertaken in different parts of the country at State levels for Science & Technology awareness, creation and popularization, entrepreneurship development activities, including the establishment of S&T parks, biotech parks, technology business incubators, targeted S&T based interventions for weaker sections, women, scheduled caste and tribes etc.

#### Opening CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi during 2004-2005

1092. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open CGHS Dispensaries in the country particularly in Delhi during the year 2004-2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria laid down for opening of CGHS Dispensary;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation regarding the opening of CGHS dispensary in Dwarka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) A statement showing the places where CGHS dispensaries

are proposed to be opened during 2004-2005 as per 10th Five Year Plan is enclosed. However, due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to open new CHGS dispensaries at present.

As per the SIU norms, criteria for opening a new CGHS dispensary in an existing CGHS covered city is 2000 cardholders (serving/pensioners) which translates into round 10,000 beneficiaries. For extending CGHS to a new city, it requires at least 6,000 cardholders (serving/pensioners) which translates into around 30,000 beneficiaries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to open a new CGHS dispensary in Dwarka as it is not included in the 10th Five Year Plan.

#### ***Statement***

#### ***Places where New CGHS Dispensaries proposed to be opened during 2004-05***

#### **A. Allopathic Dispensaries**

1. Varanasi
2. Vijayawada
3. Jamshedhpur
4. Aurangabad
5. Delhi (Vikasपुरी)
6. Kolkata (Ichapur)
7. Pune (Wanorie Range)
8. Lucknow (Gomti Nagar)

#### **B. Ayurvedic Units**

1. Delhi (Noida)
2. Kolkata
3. Mumbai

#### **C. Homoeo Units**

1. Delhi (Noida)
2. Kolkata
3. Allahabad

#### **D. Siddha Units**

1. Chennai

#### **E. Polyclinic**

1. Ahmedabad

*[Translation]*

#### **Repatriation of Indians**

1093. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia and a few other countries have started repatriating Indians working there;

(b) if so, the names of such countries and the country-wise number of Indians repatriated so far;

(c) the reasons for the said repatriation; and

(d) the action taken so far by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy**

1094. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special scheme is being implemented by the Government to promote the Indian systems of medicine and homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote the Indian systems of medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H). The schemes include financial support for development of ISM&H education institutions, hospitals and dispensaries

in rural and backward areas, supply of medicinal kits, strengthening of State Drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, assistance to drug manufacturing units obtaining GMP certification, support to ISM&H industry for creation of quality control facilities etc.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Telephone Exchanges In Rural Areas of Punjab

1095. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of Punjab particularly in Amritsar, Patiala, Jalandhar and Chandigarh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more telephone exchanges in the said districts of Punjab; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The information is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Amritsar	128
2.	Bhatinda	62
3.	Mansa	47
4.	Chandigarh	03
5.	Ferozepur	125
6.	Moga	38
7.	Mukatsar	51
8.	Faridkot	30
9.	Hoshiarpur	77
10.	Jalandhar	88
11.	Kapurthala	40
12.	Nawashahar	41

1	2	3
13.	Patiala	95
14.	Fatehgarh Sahib	29
15.	Gurdaspur	104
16.	Ropar	58
17.	Sangrur	119
18.	Ludhiana	94
Total		1229

(b) There is a proposal for opening of telephone exchange in rural area at Shampura in Gurdaspur District (Pathankot SSA).

(c) Equipment to be installed is being procured and exchange is expected to be commissioned by March 2005.

#### Success of PMRY In North Eastern Region

1096. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the success of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for more effective and result oriented implementation of PMRY in these States?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two rounds of evaluations of Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) have already been conducted by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), Delhi for the programme year 1993-94 to 1997-98. The important findings of the evaluation report of the second round covering 13 districts in 5 States, including Assam, and Manipur are enclosed as statement. The third round of evaluation for the programme years 1998-99 to 2000-01 covering Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim has also been entrusted to IAMR during 2004-05.

(c) Government has initiated various measures to improve the performance of PMRY in the North Eastern

States that inter-alia include relaxation in upper age limit from 35 years to 40 years, enhancement of subsidy ceiling from Rs. 7500/- to Rs. 15000/-, relaxation in residency criteria for married men in Meghalaya, instructions to the implementing Banks to reduce the gap between sanctions and disbursements, etc.

**Statement**

- (i) 61.3% of the beneficiaries belong to General Category, 25.6% to OBCs, 11% to SCs and 2.1% to STs. Proportion of women is 14%.
- (ii) Sanction was 81.6% of target and 74.7% of sanctioned cases were disbursed.
- (iii) Average amount of loan disbursed is Rs. 57,403/- per beneficiary.
- (iv) Employment generated is 1.94 persons per functional unit.
- (v) The distribution of beneficiaries in rural/urban areas are 49.9% & 50.1% respectively.
- (vi) Assets have been created in 89.7% of the cases disbursed.
- (vii) 36.4% of the beneficiaries were repaying the loan installments on time.
- (viii) Willful default comprise 16% of the default cases.

**Computerisation of Post Offices**

1097. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised post offices in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the norms/criteria adopted to provide computers in the post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Till date, 2142 post offices have been computerized in the country. A list indicating the State/UT-wise number of such post offices is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Computers are provided to the post offices where the traffic and counter operations are relatively higher.

**Statement**

*State/UT-wise numbers of computerised post offices*

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Computerised P.O.
1	2	3
<b>I. States</b>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	161
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3.	Assam	54
4.	Bihar	35
5.	Chhattisgarh	36
6.	Delhi (NCT)	97
7.	Goa	7
8.	Gujarat	110
9.	Haryana	62
10.	Himachal Pradesh	60
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6
12.	Jharkhand	9
13.	Karnataka	224
14.	Kerala	236
15.	Madhya Pradesh	103
16.	Maharashtra	325
17.	Manipur	3
18.	Meghalaya	4
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	6
21.	Orissa	61
22.	Punjab	88
23.	Rajasthan	63
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	199
26.	Tripura	8

1	2	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	25
28.	Uttaranchal	41
29.	West Bengal	80
Total		2199
<b>II. Union Territories</b>		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
2.	Chandigarh	12
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
4.	Daman & Diu	2
5.	Lakshadweep	1
6.	Pondicherry	7
Total		23

**Public Telephone Booths**

1098. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephone booths installed in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing targets in each plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A total number of 772937 Public Telephone Booths were provided during 9th Five Year Plan. The State-wise number is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) PCOs are allotted liberally to all applicants above 18 years of age as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. Hence, no target has been fixed for installation of PCOs for the tenth Five Year Plan. The number of PCOs to be installed during the said period depends on the demand.

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

**Statement**

*Public telephone booths installed in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of Public Telephone Booths provided
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	459
2.	Andhra Pradesh	79930
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	530
4.	Assam	8820
5.	Bihar	24111
6.	Chhattisgarh	5005
7.	Daman	220
8.	Diu	66
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	207
10.	Gujarat	20036
11.	Goa	1820
12.	Haryana	14285
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4443
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	6941
15.	Jharkhand	6560
16.	Karnataka	45774
17.	Kerala	30188
18.	Lakshadweep	20
19.	Madhya Pradesh	43258
20.	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	177799
21.	Meghalaya	1105
22.	Mizoram	576
23.	Manipur	630
24.	Nagaland	848

1	2	3
25.	Orissa	15167
26.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	22457
27.	Pondicherry	1387
28.	Rajasthan	28076
29.	Sikkim	250
30.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai)	90171
31.	Tripura	1266
32.	Uttaranchal	4453
33.	Uttar Pradesh	69409
34.	West Bengal (including Kolkata)	44120
35.	Delhi	22550
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>772937</b>

#### **Procurement of Converters**

1099. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had procured two gas-tight high temperature rotary tubular converters and one multipurpose rotary converter during 1999 and 2001;

(b) if so, whether these converters have since been commissioned/installed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the loss suffered by the Government due to delay in installing/commissioning them; and

(e) the action taken against the officials responsible for the delay?

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

(b) Yes, Sir, in 2004

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

(d) There was no loss suffered by the Government. Uninterrupted supply of fuel for research reactors was made possible by ensuring regular maintenance of the existing converters in the old Plant. Though the installation of the equipment was delayed due to changes in layout as a result of later availability of space nearby the availability of equipment as per planned schedule provided redundancy to avoid interruption in fuel supply to research reactors in the event of breakdown of old equipment.

(e) Question of delay on the part of any official does not arise, as the schedule of procurement action of converters was a conscious decision to ensure availability of standby converters.

#### **Competition with Private Companies**

1100. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make an umbrella company to coordinate between the Government owned companies BSNL and MTNL in order to compete with the private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete plans formulated by the Government to ensure government companies compete with the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no such proposal at present in the Government.

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

#### **Child Mortality Rate**

1101. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increase in the child mortality rate in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for increase in the child mortality rate; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The source of information for child mortality is Sample Registration System, Registrar General, Government of India. Child mortality has declined from 26.5 in 1991 to 20.4 in 1999.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Child mortality rate has not increased.

(d) The remedial steps being taken in this regard are:

1. National Programme for control of acute respiratory infections.
2. National Programme for Control of diarrhoeal diseases.
3. Universal Immunization Programme.
4. Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

*Statement*

*Child Mortality rate in India, State-wise during 1991-99*

India and bigger states	Year								
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
India	26.5	26.5	23.7	23.9	24.2	23.9	23.1	22.5	20.4
Andhra Pradesh	21.3	20.0	17.1	17.0	19.1	17.8	16.8	18.1	16.6
Assam	32.4	30.5	29.7	24.7	24.7	24.0	26.9	27.5	24.2
Bihar	22.8	26.8	25.3	24.9	28.3	27.9	25.9	22.9	20.6
Gujarat	23.3	23.7	20.7	22.2	19.9	20.4	20.8	19.6	19.7
Haryana	23.0	22.8	20.3	22.3	22.7	23.4	22.2	22.4	19.6
Himachal Pradesh	19.3	17.6	16.1	16.0	17.2	17.6	15.8	16.7	13.0
Karnataka	23.6	21.7	20.0	18.6	18.2	16.6	16.4	16.7	15.4
Kerala	4.3	3.9	3.4	3.4	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.6	3.5
Madhya Pradesh	44.5	38.5	36.9	34.8	33.0	33.5	32.3	32.6	30.4
Maharashtra	16.3	15.9	14.1	14.4	14.9	13.1	12.2	12.7	11.5
Orissa	39.0	33.4	33.7	31.6	32.2	30.6	28.1	29.0	27.4
Punjab	17.0	17.4	16.1	15.7	14.9	15.2	14.9	16.8	14.5
Rajasthan	30.9	33.6	26.2	27.4	29.3	31.4	29.5	27.7	24.9
Tamil Nadu	16.1	15.3	13.6	13.4	14.5	12.6	13.4	13.0	13.2
Uttar Pradesh	35.6	37.8	32.9	33.0	30.8	31.4	31.1	29.6	28.1
West Bengal	20.6	18.4	17.0	19.8	18.6	18.1	16.8	15.0	13.9

*Child Mortality Rates Aged (0-4) Years.*

Sl. No.	States	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.7	19.1	17.8	16.8	18.1	16.6
2.	Assam	28.5	24.7	24.0	26.9	27.5	24.2
3.	Bihar	26.2	28.3	27.9	25.9	22.9	20.6
4.	Gujarat	26.0	19.9	20.4	20.8	19.6	17.9
5.	Haryana	21.8	22.7	23.4	22.2	22.4	19.6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	17.2	17.6	15.8	16.7	13.0
7.	Karnataka	21.1	18.2	16.6	16.4	16.7	15.4
8.	Kerala	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.6	3.5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	39.4	33.0	33.5	32.3	32.6	30.4
10.	Maharashtra	16.5	14.9	13.1	12.2	12.7	11.5
11.	Orissa	35.9	32.2	30.6	28.1	29.0	27.4
12.	Punjab	18.3	14.9	15.2	14.9	16.8	14.5
13.	Rajasthan	29.5	29.3	31.4	29.5	27.7	24.9
14.	Tamil Nadu	17.0	14.5	12.6	13.4	13.0	13.2
15.	Uttar Pradesh	36.6	30.8	31.4	31.1	29.6	28.1
16.	West Bengal	19.7	18.6	18.1	16.8	15.0	13.9
	All India	26.3	24.2	23.9	23.1	22.5	20.4

Source: Sample Registration System, Registrar General, India

Child Mortality Rate is defined as the number of children died in the age group (0-4) yrs divided by the no. of children in the same age group, multiplied by 1000.

#### Installation of Laser Trimming System in VSSC

1102. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre had called for installation of Laser Trimming System in 1998 specified as 8 watts and the wavelength 1064 nanometers;

(b) if so, the name of agency selected alongwith the cost of the system and the terms and conditions laid down therefor;

(c) the details of the system received alongwith the time of supply and installation of system;

(d) whether the supplier has not fulfilled the terms and conditions;

(e) if so, the action taken against the supplier and also against his Indian agent;

(f) the loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the official responsible for the said deal?

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



(b) M/s California Digital Laser Systems, USA was selected to supply the item at a cost of Indian equivalent of Rs. 91.35 lakhs. As per the terms and conditions, the suppliers were responsible for installation and commissioning of the system.

(c) The Laser Trimming System and its accessories were received in June 1998 but the experts from the US Company could not visit India for commissioning the system on account of the US imposed sanctions on ISRO in May 1998. However, with in-house expertise, the equipment could be made operational for its primary function in July 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No action was required to be taken against the supplier and the Indian agent since the non-fulfilment was due to the US imposed sanctions.

(f) The amount paid to the Company was only 90% of the total cost. The balance 10% amount was the milestone payment which was to be made for commissioning the system and after testing its performance. Since the supplier has not commissioned the equipment, the 10% amount was withheld. Hence there was no loss suffered.

(g) No action was required to be taken against any official as there was no fault on the part of any official of the Department.

*[Translation]*

#### Opening of Post Offices in Gujarat

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

(a) the name and location of post offices and sub-post offices opened in Surat, Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals received in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is facing difficulties in opening new post offices or sub-post offices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) One post office has been opened in Puna Kumbhariya during 2001.

(b) The following six proposals have been received during the last three years.

1. Karanj
2. Ghoddod Road
3. GIPCL Township
4. Sachin GIDC
5. Olpad GIDC
6. Anand Mahal Road

(c) to (e) Post offices are opened subject to compliance with norms prescribed for their opening and availability of accommodation. Post offices at GIPCL Township and Sachin GIDC, which are found to be justified as per norms, will be opened immediately after obtaining suitable accommodation from the authorities concerned failing which action will be taken to secure accommodation on rental basis.

While proposals for post offices at Karanj and Ghoddod Road are under process, proposals for post offices at Olpad GIDC and Anand Mahal Road have not been found justified on the basis of income and distance norms.

#### Four Laning of N.H. 24

1104. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 24 Sector (Delhi-Kochi-Lucknow) has been converted into four-lane highway; and

(b) if not, the percentage of the said highway remaining to be converted into four-lane and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway No. 24 extends from Delhi to Lucknow but does not pass through Kochi. Only Delhi to Hapur section of National Highway-24 has been converted into 4-lane.

(b) About 86% of this National Highway (NH) is not 4 laned. Four laning of Hapur-Moradabad section of NHs is targeted to be completed by December, 2007. Lucknow-Sitapur section of this NH has been identified for four laning under Built Operate & Transfer (B.O.T.) scheme, which is targeted to be completed by December, 2008 subject to response of the bids under BOT. It is premature to indicate any time-frame for four laning of Moradabad-Sitapur stretch of the NH.

*[English]*

#### Using of Land for Commercial Purposes

1105. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to increase in bank services, electronic and print media, some post offices in the country have become non-viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large portion of land with Postal Department is not under use;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to use this unutilized land for commercial purposes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Post Offices provide a variety of services in terms of various categories of mails as well as financial and insurance matters. While the traffic in some mail related activities have reduced with the declining trend in traditional mails, workload in banking and insurance related activities has increased.

(c) to (g) The Department has purchased plots of land at different places for construction of buildings for Post offices, Administrative Offices and Staff Quarters. There are 1750 plots with the Department where construction is yet to be taken up. Construction of buildings is taken up in a phased manner based on priority of needs and subject to availability of funds under Annual Plan.

#### New Ministry for NRIs

1106. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIANS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Ministry has been formed for the non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details of subjects being dealt with by the said Ministry; and

(c) the extent to which the new Ministry will be able to fulfil the aspirations of the NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes.

(b) The erstwhile entry No. 40 under the Ministry of External Affairs in Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 which states as under:

"Relations with Overseas Indians excluding entries specifically allotted to other departments."

has been transferred to the Ministry for NRI Affairs.

(c) The formation of this Ministry is part of the Government's policy to actively engage overseas Indian communities in developing a mutually beneficial relationship.

#### Female Condoms

1107. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared the proposal for marketing of female condoms across the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to assess its impact on the health of the women;

(c) whether these female condoms would be supplied free of cost;

(d) whether infrastructure exists in the country for the manufacture of the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The marketing of female condoms across the country can be considered only after completing the efficacy and acceptability studies. There are two types of female condoms that are being considered for manufacturing in India:

- (1) Poliurethene Female Condom (Reality) manufactured by Female Health Company, USA in collaboration with Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram.
- (2) Latex Female Condom (Dr. Reddy) manufactured by Meditech Products Limited, Chennai.

The studies are being conducted at National level for the field test user response and acceptance of the product by the National Agencies/NGOs. The use of female condoms and its assessment impact on the health of the women are in testing stage in limited centers like Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

(c) No such scheme has been started.

(d) and (e) The infrastructure for manufacture of Reality Female Condoms is being developed at Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram in collaboration with Family Health Company that manufacture the condoms at London factory. The Latex Female Condoms are manufactured at Chennai by Meditech Products Limited and are supplied to European countries.

#### Rank of India in IT Infrastructure and Telecommunication Competition

1108. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Economic Forum has put India at 65th and 41st rank on the information technology infrastructure and telecommunication competition microindices respectively;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the India's position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) According to the table in the report of World Economic Forum, India is 67th on the Infrastructure environment sub-index. Regarding telecommunications, as per information available on Internet site of World Economic Forum, India is positioned 56th out of the 102 economies ranked in the growth competitiveness index of the World Economic Forum's Global competitiveness report 2003-04.

(b) and (c) Government constantly endeavours to foster a market environment in the ICT sector through the instrumentality of the National Telecom Policy and IT Act 2000. The regulatory and policy framework is conducive to investment in setting up communication as well as IT infrastructure. The formal and informal education system has catered to the skill sets required for the IT enabled services. Through an orientation and adherence to high quality processes and expertise in hardware and software platforms, the software services industry has established itself in the global markets.

#### Container Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

1109. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received request from certain quarters to stall the award of third container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Considering the dwindling traffic in bulk commodities and the potential for increased container traffic at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, a decision was taken to redevelop the existing Bulk Terminal in the Port into a container terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Accordingly, global tender were invited and after going through the bidding process, the Board of Trustees of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) approved the proposal to award the contract for the project on BOT basis for a period of 30 years to Maersk A/S-CONCOR Consortium who were the highest bidders quoting a revenue share of 35.503% to the Port Trust, subject to the approval of the Government of India.

The Government and the Port Trust have been receiving representations from individuals, Unions/Associations representing labour interests as also certain sections of trade and industry expressing concerns, mainly with regard to protection of labour interests, national security, inadequate revenue share for Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and unfair trade practices which the selected private operator may indulge in. After taking into account all relevant factors, the Government has accorded approval, as required under Section 42 (3) of Major Port Trust Act, 1963, to the proposal of JNPT to award the contract for the project to Maersk A/S-CONCOR consortium and JNPT has issued Letter of Intent to the Consortium on 24.6.2004.

*[Translation]*

#### Utilisation of Funds under MPLADS

1110. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) have been fully utilized during the last three years;

(b) if so, the funds allocated and the percentage of the funds utilized under the said scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the reasons for delay in implementation of the schemes sanctioned by the Government have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the suggestions made to tide over the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of funds released during the last three financial years under MPLADS are as follows:

1.	2001-02	—	Rs. 1800 crore
2.	2002-03	—	Rs. 1600 crore
3.	2003-04	—	Rs. 1682 crore

The details of year-wise expenditure against above releases are available with the respective District Administration. However, the cumulative figures of expenditure from the inception of the Scheme in 1993 till

31-03-2002, 31-03-2003 and 31-03-2004 are indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)			
As on	Funds Released by Government of India	Expenditure Incurred by the District Administration	% Utilisation Over Release
31.03.2002	8897.80	6610.18	74.29
31.03.2003	10497.80	8272.70	78.80
31.03.2004	12179.80	10009.38	82.18

(c) and (d) There are various reasons for delay in the implementation of works under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Main reasons are follows:

- (i) Delay in processing of recommendations received from the Members of Parliament by District Administration;
- (ii) Delay in preparation of estimates by the concerned implementing agencies;
- (iii) Delay in issue of financial sanction by the District Administration;
- (iv) Non-compliance of time frame by the Implementing Agencies;
- (v) Delay in transfer of funds from the nodal district to implementing district;
- (vi) Non-submission of expenditure statement to the Government of India; and
- (vii) Non-availability and delay in acquisition of land.

The Government have taken steps to speed up the implementation of works. The State Governments have been advised to follow strictly the provisions of the Guidelines including those relating to monitoring of works and implement works recommended by Members of Parliament expeditiously. The District Administration have been advised to sanction works to the extent of their entitlement without waiting for actual release of funds and submit the expenditure report expeditiously. They also have been advised to evolve a time frame for implementation keeping in view the nature of the works. Special review meetings were also held from time to time ensure expeditious implementation of the recommended works.

*[English]***Inspection of Passport Offices**

1111. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inspection on the working of passport offices in Punjab has been carried out during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of pending applications for issue of passport as on date, particularly in Amritsar; and

(d) the efforts made to clear the pending applications in the above mentioned district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Five inspections of Passport Offices in Punjab—4 of RPO Chandigarh and 2 of PO Jalandhar—were carried out in the last three years as per details given below:

PO	Inspection Authority	Year
Chandigarh & Jalandhar	Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs	2001
Chandigarh	Secretary (PCD)	2003
Jalandhar	Director (PV)	2003
Chandigarh	Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V.K. Khanna	2004

(c) The number of applications pending for issue of passports in RPO Chandigarh and PO Jalandhar as on 30.6.2004 are 12,140 and 8,371 respectively and of the latter, 1,922 pertain to Amritsar.

(d) Several measures have been taken by Government from time to time to eliminate pendencies in issue of passports. These include deploying additional staff from other passport offices, computerisation, decentralisation of submission of passport applications to district level, machine writing of passports and expediting police verification.

**Competition Faced by Cottage Industries**

1112. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the stiff competition being faced by the cottage industries from multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of traditional cottage industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) With the globalization of the Indian economy, the industries in the country including cottage and rural industries, are facing greater competition in the market. The strategy of the government is to strengthen the cottage and rural industry sector to enable it to remain competitive in the market led economy and generate additional jobs. To strengthen the cottage and rural industry sector, Government is implementing scheme like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC), providing subsidize rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for setting up of industries in the rural areas by providing subsidy in the form of margin money.

For the regeneration of traditional industries namely coir, handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, leather, pottery and other cottage industries the Government has proposed to set up a Fund with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crores.

*[Translation]***Malta Incident**

1113. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians killed in a boat capsized in December 25, 1996 which later on came to be known as Malta incident;

(b) whether the families of those killed in the above incident were given financial or any other assistance by the Centre or concerned State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the persons responsible for the above incident have since been arrested;

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

(f) whether the Government had appointed any enquiry commission in that regard; and

(g) if so, the details of the report of the said commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) On the basis of the testimonies given by the survivors of the tragedy, it is estimated that about 166-175 Indians died in the incident.

(b) No compensation has been given to the families of the victims by the Central or State Governments because the victims of the Malta Boat Tragedy were engaged in illegal immigration into a foreign country without proper travel documents. The grant of compensation to the victims of the tragedy by the Government would have not only amounted to the condonation of their criminal activities but also supporting them overtly. However, the Punjab Government had made an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000/- each to the families of the 79 victims of the tragedy, the details of which were provided by the survivors.

(c) The Government has been giving every possible assistance in pursuing the interests of the victims and their families through Shri Balwant Singh Khara, Chairman, Malta Boat tragedy Probe Mission. He has been requested to keep in touch with the concerned Italian legal counsel who has been representing the victims in a compensation case on claim-sharing basis.

(d) and (e) Though some arrests were made by the CBI, the latest information on this point is not available.

(f) No enquiry Commission has been appointed by the Government in this regard. Only a CBI enquiry was ordered.

(g) Question does not arise.

*[English]*

#### STD Facility on Fixed Line Phones

1114. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether fixed line phones can get STD facility only on payment of securing deposit of fixed amount;

(b) whether it is proposed to do away with this practice;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited subscribers of local fixed line phone can make STD calls within the Circle i.e. on '95' level, or can make STD calls from non STD phone by use of 'Virtual Calling Cards' without any additional security deposit.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Telephone billing of subscriber having STD is generally higher. In order to recover these dues in case of non-payment by subscriber, security deposit is necessary.

#### Illegal Phone Racket

1115. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
DR. P.P. KOYA:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether a major scam in the international telephone running into crores of rupees was recently unearthed in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the *modus operandi* of the illegal phone racket in providing international phone call;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the action 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) No, Sir, No major scam in international telephony causing loss of crores of rupees to the Government has been unearthed recently in Mumbai. However, during the financial year, 2003-2004, 13 cases of illegal forwarding of incoming international calls by passing the legal gateways have been detected in MTNL, Mumbai.

(b) In all these cases, the private parties who had taken telephone lines/mobile connections and leased lines from various service providers were found extending international calls illegally. The modus operandi employed was bringing incoming international calls traffic through leased line and switching the same using high-tech equipment and further distributing the calls to end users through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

(c) The estimated loss suffered by the Government service providers during 2003-2004 is Rs. 1,17,04,793/-. Out of this the maximum loss accrued in one case detected Rs. 2269,999/-. This loss has been estimated on the assumption that these calls would have passed through legal gateways and consequent earning of revenue by the Government and service providers.

(d) The following action has been taken in the matter:

- (i) FIRs have been filed with the police authorities and offenders prosecuted.
- (ii) Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.
- (iii) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.
- (iv) Dedicated CBI cells have been created in the four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom, related frauds.
- (v) Department of telecom have issued guidelines to all service providers to take necessary steps to ensure that such illegal set-ups are stopped/curbed forthwith.

#### **Indians Languishing in Foreign Jails**

1116. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians are languishing in foreign jails;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to get them released at the earliest?

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

(b) A statement prepared on the basis of information received from Indian Missions/Posts abroad is enclosed.

(c) Indian Missions/Posts provide all possible assistance in such cases. This assistance includes getting Indian nationals released if possible, meeting them, ensuring that there is no miscarriage of justice, facilitating speedy trials and enabling proper living conditions and treatment in the prisons.

#### *Statement*

Sl.No.	Country	Number of Indians jailed abroad
1	2	3
1.	Algeria	9
2.	Argentina	3
3.	Armenia	1
4.	Austria	Nil
5.	Australia	1
6.	Azerbaijan	Nil
7.	Bahrain	163
8.	Bangladesh	738
9.	Belgium	14
10.	Belize	Nil
11.	Bhutan	30
12.	Bolivia	Nil
13.	Botswana	5
14.	Brazil	Nil
15.	Brunei	Nil
16.	Bulgaria	Nil
17.	Burkina Faso	Nil

1	2	3	1	2	3
18.	Canada	1	48.	Ireland	Nil
19.	Central African Republic	Nil	49.	Israel	170
20.	Chile	Nil	50.	Italy	39
21.	China	34	51.	Jamaica	2
22.	Colombia	Nil	52.	Japan	2
23.	Combodia	1	53.	Jordan	4
24.	Comoros	Nil	54.	Kuwait	134
25.	Cote d'Ivoire	Nil	55.	Latvia	Nil
26.	Croatia	Nil	56.	Lebanon	160
27.	Cuba	4	57.	Liberia	Nil
28.	Cyprus	49	58.	Libya	11
29.	Czech Republic	1	59.	Macedonia	Nil
30.	Denmark	9	60.	Madagascar	2
31.	Djibouti	Nil	61.	Malaysia	568
32.	El Salvador	Nil	62.	Maldives	12
33.	Ethiopia	Nil	63.	Mexico	Nil
34.	Fiji	Nil	64.	Mongolia	Nil
35.	Finland	1	65.	Monzambique	Nil
36.	France	190	66.	Myanmar	50
37.	Germany	Nil	67.	Namibia	Nil
38.	Ghana	Nil	68.	Netherlands	152
39.	Greece	198	69.	Nicaragua	Nil
40.	Guatemala	Nil	70.	Niger	Nil
41.	Guinea	Nil	71.	Oman	22
42.	Guyana	Nil	72.	Pakistan	1182
43.	Honduras	Nil	73.	Panama	3
44.	Hong Kong	39	74.	Papua New Guinea	Nil
45.	Hungary	3	75.	Peru	Nil
46.	Indonesia	3	76.	Poland	1
47.	Iran	4	77.	Portugal	5



1	2	3
78.	Qatar	21
79.	Russian Federation	120
80.	Saudi Arabia	1160
81.	Serbia and Montenegro	5
82.	Seychelles	Nil
83.	Sierra Leone	Nil
84.	Singapore	345
85.	Slovak Republic	12
86.	Soloman Islands	Nil
87.	South Africa	3
88.	Sri Lanka	3
89.	Sudan	Nil
90.	Swaziland	Nil
91.	Sweden	Nil
92.	Switzerland	4
93.	Syria	10
94.	Tajikistan	1
95.	Tanzania	2
96.	Thailand	31
97.	Togo	Nil
98.	Tunisia	Nil
99.	Turkey	45
100.	U.A.E.	597
101.	U.K.	233
102.	U.S.A.	101
103.	Uganda	Nil
104.	Ukraine	231
105.	Uzbekistan	Nil
106.	Vanuatu	Nil
107.	Vietnam	Nil

1	2	3
108.	Yemen	Nil
109.	Zimbabwe	Nil
Total		6944

#### Bilateral Ties with Britain

1117. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to discuss with the British Government a set of proposals forwarded by UK;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the British Government has suggested greater interaction at various levels;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the constructive steps proposed to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) Measures to strengthen bilateral co-operation are constantly under discussion between the two countries. There are no specific proposals of the kind referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

#### Licence Sought by BSNL

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

(a) whether the BSNL has sought license for entering in telecom circle in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the time by which licence is likely to be issued to BSNL; and

(d) the likely impact on MTNL as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BSNL had sought Licence for entering in Telecom Circle in Delhi & Mumbai and the request had not been agreed to.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

*[Translation]*

**JPC on Pesticide Residues**

1119. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to constitute a new experts panel to test the presence of insecticides in different brands of cold drinks including Coca Cola and Pepsi;

(b) if so, whether the Government has refused to accept the recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted by the previous Government on the subject; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) The Government has initiated action on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on pesticide Residues in and Safety Standards for Soft Drinks, Fruit Juice and other Beverages.

*[English]*

**Bribery Cases Handled by CBI**

1120. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a city court had blamed the CBI for mishandling a high profile case against Delhi Zone Central Excise Chief Commission and Flex Industries Chief on charges of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI could not produce any witness to corroborate that the money seized from the office/residence of the Central Excise Chief Commissioner was received as bribe; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that bribery cases are not instituted without producing solid evidence to the effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (d) In its order dated 26.5.2004, the Court of Special Judge, Delhi has made observations regarding differential yardsticks being used by the CBI has filed a revision petition in the High Court against the order, which has been admitted on 6.7.2004. As the Special Court discharged the accused persons at the stage of framing of charge, the CBI did not have any opportunity to produce witnesses.

**Reservation to Muslims in Government Jobs**

1121. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of Muslims in Government jobs is still negligible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide reservation to Muslims in Government jobs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being 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 PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Since recruitment to Central Government services is not made on the basis of religion, no data relating to the representation of Muslims in Government services is being maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Shortage of Doctors/Nurses/Paramedics**

1122. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a shortage of doctors, nurses and Paramedics in the Government hospitals and CGHS dispensaries in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to down sizing the Government, the Department of Personnel & Training vide their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, instructed all the Departments to limit the direct recruitment to 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

For Group 'A' posts including doctors etc., the annual recruitment plan in this regard to be cleared by a Screening Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary. The recruitment of Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts is to be cleared by a Screening Committee headed by Secretary (Health).

As it would be difficult to apply the above guidelines for vacancies in the health sector, the Department of Health has taken up the matter at the highest level seeking exemption of technical/scientific posts from the purview of DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001 so that the shortage of manpower is met.

#### **CBI Raids**

1123. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI conducted raids on 25.6.04 at various places across the country to target/identify officers of doubtful integrity and specified areas of corruption in Government departments and organizations;

(b) if so, the details of locations where raids were carried out;

(c) the details of seizure made and the persons arrested alongwith the action taken by the Government against them; and

(d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) In a countrywide Special Drive spread to 50 cities and towns on 25.6.2004, the CBI has registered 39 cases against 64 public servants and 49 private persons/firms, recovering incriminating documents, cash of Rs. 9.1 crore (approximately), foreign currency of US\$ 249 etc.

(d) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in Government offices, such as formulation, monitoring and effective implementation of anti-corruption policy consisting of a three-pronged strategy of preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection, and deterrent punitive action. The Special Drive conducted by the CBI on 25.06.2004 was part of this strategy.

*[Translation]*

#### **Freedom of Information Act, 2002**

1124. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not been able to enforce the "Freedom of Information Act, 2002" till now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Act will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) The Freedom of Information Act has not come into force till now.

(b) and (c) The notification of rules to be framed under the Act, as also setting up of the basic infrastructure, requires inter-ministerial/departmental consultations as well as consultations with State Governments. As soon as this is completed, action shall be taken to notify the date from which the Act shall come into force.

*[English]***Employment In Common Minimum Programme**

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

(a) whether the new Government has drawn a Common Minimum Programme (CMP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has promised to give 100 days employment in a year;

(d) if so, the details of the criteria adopted;

(e) the details of the plan proposed by the Government for the rest of the 265 days;

(f) the time by which the programme is likely to be started; and

(g) the number of people likely to be benefitted from the said programme?

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

(b) The details of Common Minimum Programme (CMP) are available on the website [www.pmindia.nic.in](http://www.pmindia.nic.in) and printed copies are also available in the Parliament Library.

(c) to (g) The CMP lay down that the government will enact a National Employment Guarantee Act. This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to begin with, on asset-creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle-class household.

**Furnishing Wrong Information**

1126. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2612 dated December 4, 2002 regarding review of registration of firms and state:

(a) whether the matter has since been considered;

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

(c) whether no action has been taken against the officials of Kendriya Bhandar responsible for giving factually incorrect information in replying to USQ No. 879 dated 6.3.2002 saying that the sticker placed on Milton Jugs was of higher MRP which was in actual fact of lower MRP; and

(d) if so, the reasons for shielding those employees and the steps taken to initiate stern action against them now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Implementation Statement in fulfillment of the Assurance has since been furnished to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

(c) and (d) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.01 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE***[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now we come to the item, Papers to be laid on the Table.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not interrupt. Do you not see that papers are being laid on the Table?

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Ministry of Shipping for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 182/2004]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Ministry of Shipping for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 183/2004]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Thirty Seventh Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 184/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 185/2004]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2004-2005

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 186/2004]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 187/2004]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 188/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 189/2004]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and new Materials, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 190/2004]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 191/2004]

- (10) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 192/2004]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 193/2004]

- (14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 23 of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995:

- (i) The Technology Development Board (Submission of Returns) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. 179 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2004.
- (ii) The Technology Development Board (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. 180 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 194/2004]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):  
I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 323 (1) of the Constitution:
- (i) The 52nd Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of the cases referred to in chapter 10 of the Report.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 195/2004]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

- (i) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 109 in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2002 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 4 dated the 4th January, 2003.
- (ii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 372 in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2002.
- (iii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 373 in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2002.
- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 108 in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2002 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 5 dated the 4th January, 2003.
- (v) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 173 in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2003.
- (vi) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 174 in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2002.
- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) First Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 511 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2002.
- (viii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) First Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 514 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2002.
- (ix) The Indian Police Service (Pay) First Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 512 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2002.
- (x) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) First Amendment Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 513 in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2002.

- (xi) The All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Second Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 105 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 196/2004]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): On behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A Copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 197/2004]

- (2) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 198/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 199/2004]

- (6) A copy of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (2nd Amendment) Regulation, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 5-4/2000-A&L (Vol. I) in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2004 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 200/2004]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 201/2004]

12.03 hrs.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### National Shipping Board

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4 (2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with rule 3 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4 (2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with rule 3 of the National

Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

*The motion was adopted.*

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion regarding the hunger deaths.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to raise a serious question about Uttar Pradesh and the hon'ble Prime Minister is leaving the House.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have been told that we are seeking facts. They have been kept pending. It has not yet been finally decided. We are getting the facts on this. You know that is the system.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will you allow me to speak for one Minute? After that you may take the decisions.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Janunpur): You said you would listen to us.

...(Interruptions)



MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I will listen to you all.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I had sought your permission during zero hour to have a discussion on a news appeared in a newspaper from Punjab that the Chief Minister of Punjab.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir I have given you the notice.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, so many people have died because of hunger. The situation is very worse. I would like to appeal to the Prime Minister to send a team to visit these areas. The tribal people are dying. They do not have food since six months. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, they are disturbing me.

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore them.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, will you please allow me just to finish my matter? I promised you that I would not take much time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. I have asked them to keep quiet. You kindly complete it in half a minute.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I will conclude within 30 seconds.

Sir, the people are not getting food for the last six months. My request to the Government is that the Government must give immediate relief to them so that the human lives are saved. Sir, in North Bengal—Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri—the tribal people and labourers are dying. ...(Interruptions) They want relief. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion. I have said that we are trying to get the facts. Please co-operate. I have allowed you. Please co-operate. Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, please decide about it later. This is a very serious situation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is quite unusual. I have allowed you because it is a very serious matter. Please sit down.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, please allow me to raise a very important matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I will come to you. Kindly co-operate. Everybody wants his matter to be first. How can it be decided?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, your item is listed at serial number 56. But after Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you doing this? You have unnecessarily taken time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please co-operate. Shri Ramji Lal Suman could have finished his matter by this time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: About 64 hon. Members have given their notices for issues which they consider very urgent. Hon. Members, you should show some consideration to the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, what about my privilege motion notice? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri, Thomas, you were a Minister. You know how to behave.

If everybody wants his matter to be raised first, then I will have to call all the 64 hon. Members together.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sought permission to move an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been informed that it is not admitted.

[English]

It is not admitted. I will try to accommodate everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath ji, you can discuss this matter during the debate on the General Budget.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else's statement except Shri Ramji Lal Suman's will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: It has become a pattern that every hon. Member is interrupting the other hon. Member who is speaking. Everybody wants his matter to be raised first. I will not allow this. I am giving full opportunity to all of you in all matters.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir.\* ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Everybody wants his matter to be raised first. How is it possible?

Shri Ramji Lal Suman is raising an important matter. Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, unless I call you, it will not be recorded.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you behave like this, then I will go to the next item.

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\*Not recorded.

All hon. Members will sit down except Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my adjournment Motion is as per rules.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath ji, I have already said that it is not admitted. You can discuss it during the debate on the General Budget. I am giving you an opportunity everyday. You know that.

You are utilising my weakness for you. You are such a responsible Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, be brief, so that many hon. Members can take part.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Samajwadi Party wants to draw the attention of the House to a very important question and I would really like to request that the house should not be divided at this important question. Whenever all my good colleagues from Bihar, who were Members of the thirteenth Lok Sabha, raised demand for a special economic package for Bihar, the whole house supported them ... (Interruptions) erstwhile Government agreed to it they, were in the Government. What this Government is giving is a different question but finally all people had a desire that with Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not mention the name of Bihar because Shri Prabhunath Singh gets upset.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have all documents about the special economic package

demand made by Uttar Pradesh. Sir through you, I would like to request that Uttar Pradesh is the second largest country and its population is 17 crores which is much more than that of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, had Uttar Pradesh been a separate country, it would have been the seventh nation of the world. There is helplessness & poverty. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav himself met the hon'ble Prime Minister on 13th June and told him about the economic condition of the State, and at the same time he had requested him that the hon'ble Minister of Finance must pay attention at the time of presentation of budget, to the special economic package demand made by Uttar Pradesh. The said demand contains complete details of items & requirement of funds for them, and the development work for which these funds will be utilised.

Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that the average rate of Human Development Index was 0.381 during the year 1991 whereas it was 0.314 in Uttar Pradesh. The national average of the people living below the poverty line is about 26% while it is 31% in the case of Uttar Pradesh. During the year 2000-2001, the per capita income in Uttar Pradesh was Rs. 9,223 while the national average of the per capita income is Rs. 16,487. There is a state of helplessness and poverty in Uttar Pradesh. The State Government has limited economic resources at its disposal. That is why the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had humbly requested the Government of India to give a special assistance to the state so that justice could be done to 17 crore people of Uttar Pradesh. Sir, we want your protection. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Our protection is essential.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, be fast, a number of hon'ble Members have to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret to say that the Government has expressed its ignorance in the matter and have stated that no such message was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh while the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had a personal meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and made a humble request to him to sanction a special economic package for Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. As I have submitted earlier, the Hon'ble Prime Minister was present in the House, we wanted that he should listen to us and give response to our submission. Despite our requests, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, is not here. We desire that the demand for a special economic package made on behalf of the people of Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): How much is required? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: A demand for Rs. 18230 crore has been made. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, we would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to come to the House and announce a special economic package for Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Wait a minute. Please allow me to conduct the proceedings. Shri Mohan Singh, I know you always co-operate. Please give half-a-minute of trouble free time.

I am only requesting you. I am informing you that there are about 13 or 14 hon. Members who have given identical notices. I am requesting you to please associate yourself. If you have anything new to suggest, you can suggest that. This is my earnest appeal to you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it in the debate on the Budget also.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall take very little time to put forth my views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has announced in this Budget that consideration will be given to the development of the backward states we shall approach him. The Gadgil Mukerjee formula is already there. We never got the amount, we had expected from the Planning Commission as per that formula for the development of Uttar Pradesh and this year also the hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has tried to curtail the share of backward states. Out of the demands for Rs. 18000 crore made by us, three or four are of the urgent nature like that of pure drinking water, water resources for agriculture and

roads for which in case a minimum amount of Rs. 5000 crore is not released by the Government of India to the Government of Uttar Pradesh within one month, we shall not be able to give momentum to the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh as we want to do. Therefore, we have asked for an amount of more than Rs. 18000 crore for comprehensive development schemes but a demand for Rs. 4500 crore is of urgent nature for providing drinking water in rural and urban areas, water for agriculture as well as for electrification as these things are of urgent necessity. I want to request through you, Sir, that these demands should be considered by the Government of India at the earliest and the amount in form of taken grant should be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh till report of the Commission for backward states is present.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewti Raman Singh, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Munawar Hassan, Shri Raj Narayan, Shri Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, Shrimati Usha Verma, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh, Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav, Shri Rajendra Kumar, Shri Tufani Saroj, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Shri Paras Nath Yadav, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and Shri Ravi Prakash Verma have given identical notices. They may please appreciate that I cannot call fourteen more hon. Members on the same subject.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Please give two minutes to each of them.

MR. SPEAKER: No, two minutes will not be given.

*[English]*

Both Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Mohan Singh have very ably put forward the case.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister was here and through you he was requested to be present in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You know that I cannot compel them to immediately respond. Senior Ministers are here. They have heard you. I cannot compel them to respond.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, do you wish to respond? I am not compelling you. I just want to know whether you would like to respond.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, we cannot respond now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They do not want to respond now. They will do it later.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: The Government have no principles. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our leader also want to speak. Please listen to our leader. The Government is sitting here. There is no response from the Government. This is a question raised on behalf of the 17 crore and 20 lakh people. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it again in the discussion on the Budget. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can atleast ask for a statement. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that this is very unfortunate *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Government not even respond to it?

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): We are staging a walk out in protest against the indifferent attitude of the Government.

12.20 hrs.

*(At this stage Prof. Ramgopal Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Sutlaj-Beas rivers was raised here yesterday. Subsequently, the Prime Minister had made a statement. ...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister in his statement had mentioned about calling all the four Chief Ministers and holding talks with them. The most important point here is that the States could have different interests. Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana may present their respective cases separately. They may jointly present their cases before the Supreme Court of India and the Prime Minister and put forth their respective interests. But a law has been enacted whereby all the agreements have been scrapped. What is important here is that it has been reported in the newspapers that the Chief Minister of Punjab had talked to Soniaji before doing so and he got that law enacted there in consultation with Soniaji. It has also appeared that the Prime Minister was ignored in the matter. The Prime Minister was not consulted and only Soniaji was consulted before enacting such a law. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Let Shrimati Sonia Gandhi deny this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, this matter was raised very forcefully. The hon. Prime Minister came and made a statement in the House. He has referred to the cooperation offered to him by the hon. Leader of the

Opposition in Lok Sabha and the hon. Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha. He said the matter is being looked into. He has called a meeting of the Chief Ministers.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is no difference.

*[Translation]*

Soniaji holding talks with the Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* Is Soniaji the Super Prime Minister? ...*(Interruptions)* I want to know the outcome of the talks held yesterday. What was the decision taken after discussions with the Chief Ministers? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising the same thing. It is the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, It will lead to a spate of violent incidents the Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)* What was the Prime Minister doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday only he had made a statement. He has called a meeting. Yesterday, you were all satisfied.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot go on like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Soniaji should explain whether she was consulted or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): We want an explanation from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)* She should give an explanation. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Prime Minister was not consulted, only Soniaji was consulted, this is what the Congress led Government is doing. Were all the agreements annulled with her consent? How all the agreements were annulled together. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*  
She can explain it in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* She should come out and clear the position.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot go on like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is their internal matter as to who should be the Super Prime Minister.

*[English]*

It is a question of national interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: That has been taken care of. Please sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Soniaji should explain her position. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): How is this Government running? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let her say so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We want an explanation from her. Let her come out with a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Shrimati Sonia Gandhi should explain the position in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Now, we only want to know whether she was consulted or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House and nobody will be able to speak. I gave you an opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why did not the Prime Minister stop her. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Let her come up with a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister came and replied.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shrimati Sonia Gandhi should explain. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. No. It is not allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the issue. You are not serious about the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazariabagh): Mr. speaker, Sir, law and order machinery has totally collapsed in Jharkhand. All the officers and Ministers are indulging in loot ...*(Interruptions)* criminals and police are smuggling thousands of tones of coal from Hazariabag, Dhanbad and Bokaro. The excesses being committed by the police have even crossed the limit of atrocities seen during British rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow everybody.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Shri Dinesh Karmali was beaten up brutally in Patratu Police Station of Hazaribag district on 12th May. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, she is very much in the House. Through you we are requesting Shrimati Sonia Gandhi that she should give a clarification. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a new procedure you are talking of that I must compel one hon. Member of the House to respond to you. This is not done. You know that this is not done. You are all senior Members. I have called Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta's statement will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Four members of Sarogi family were murdered at 11.30 a.m. in Ramgarh. Police has not been able to nab the murders. ...(*Interruptions*) Now the DSP of Ramgarh is threatening the rest of the members of the family with a revolver that they should confess their involvement in the murder or they would be killed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. You are misusing the indulgence. I called you. I knew you were going to refer to the matter of river dispute. But you are bringing in irrelevant matters.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: On 8th July, Shri Karm Thakur was beaten so brutally at 8.30 in

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\*Not recorded.

Karkam Sandi Police Station that he died at 1.00 o'clock. I talked about all the criminal cases with the DGP Jharkhand, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary but there was no outcome of the talks and not action was taken. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How the Government takes a decision is not your concern.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Therefore I request Government to dismiss the Jharkhand Government, and impose Presidents rule there and conduct fresh elections. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Shrimati Sonia Gandhi should make a statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is present here. She should be asked to reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Who will reply?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you saying this? Will you dictate who will reply to you? I am sorry. This is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There are many hon. Members who want to raise their issues. Your esteemed colleague Shri Shukhdev Singh Dhindsa wants to raise an issue. I cannot call him because you are disturbing the proceedings.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot. I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.27 hrs.

*(At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House)*

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, this should be expunged from the record. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. I will decide the admissibility.

*[Translation]*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has happened to their unity. BJP, Shivsena on the one side and Mamta, Samta is on other. NDA has broken up. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar to speak now. Please be very brief.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Yes, Sir. I will be brief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the State of Kerala, the entire plantation industry is in doldrums. I want to draw the attention of the House about one district which is the smallest in Kerala which is known as Wayanad district where large tea plantations are closed. In the Wayanad district the Assam Broke plantation, Padoor plantation which are very large tea plantations, are closed for eight to nine months. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Thousands of workers do not have jobs. Ninety-two people have already committed suicide in this small district. It is a district of only 7,00,000 people. The prices are sliding down. There are one lakh farmers who cultivate pepper and coffee. They are in real trouble. The prices are alarmingly sliding down. Large plantations are closed. People have no work. It is a tribal district. The Government must look into the matter because this smallest district has the largest number of suicides because of this. *...(Interruptions)* This matter needs the consideration of the Central Government.

Sir, in the last four days, three people, namely, Shri John, Shri Vasu and Shri Ramachandra, who were small

farmers, committed suicide. They could not repay their debts. The plantations are closed. About 1,00,000 agriculturists are in trouble and labourers have no job. The Government has to very seriously consider this matter. The smallest backward district of 7,00,000 people in Kerala has the largest number of suicides. The matter is of urgent concern for the Government to look into.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to raise a very serious problem of the State of West Bengal. You know, Sir, that Ganga-Padma and Bhagirathi-Hugli river systems are creating a serious problem due to erosion and subsidence.

Sir, from Malda, Murshidabad, Nodia, Hooghly, Howrah, 24 Parganas, so many districts are in serious trouble because of subsidence, and thousands of acres of land are subsided under water. The same thing is happening in the Roopnarayan River and large parts of Howrah district are also subsiding. This is serious problem.

I would request you to give us an opportunity to have a full-fledged discussion because in 'Zero Hour', we cannot discuss all the problems. I would request you for a full-fledged discussion on this problem so that the Government can give its opinion and we can solve the problem in the short-term and long-term.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sukdev Singh Dhindsa.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Shri Chouhan, can anything be raised at any time? You are aware of all these proceedings. Let me conduct the proceedings according to rules. I am going according to rules. You want only your matter to be raised and that your matter should be decided immediately.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member is making a statement.

*...(Interruptions)*



*[Translation]*

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHWAHA (Mirzapur):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded. Do not record anything. Only the speech of Shri Dhindsa will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. I have not called you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How do I describe our behaviour here? Tell me. It is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to accommodate every side as much as possible. How do you deal with it if there are 65 notices? Tell me.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Please take up party-wise, Sir.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind instruction ! I am obliged to you!

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\*Not recorded.

12.34 hrs

RE: REPORTED BAN IMPOSED BY GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE ON WEARING OF TURBANS BY SIKHS IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER PLACES

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue which I am going to raise was taken up in the All-Party meeting too. The Government of France has imposed a ban on wearing of the turbans by the Sikhs, which is compulsory for them. The Government of France has imposed a ban on it by issuing directions that no one can go to schools or anywhere else wearing a turban. We have made every efforts from our side. In this connection we had a meeting on 12th February. We also met the Foreign Minister of France for 45 minutes when he came on a visit to India. Myself and the Chairman of Minority Commission participated in the meeting. At that meeting he had assured us that he would talk with the Home Minister and Education Minister of his country and try to solve the issue, but it has not been sorted out as yet. I request the Government to take up the matter with the Government of France at its own level. They should be asked to withdraw the ban as wearing of turban is essential and we cannot go against our religious code. I request the Government of India to take up this issue with them.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the issue.

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we are associating with him. We request the Government to take up this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: We are supporting it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was the first person to raise this issue in this Lok Sabha but the Government did nothing then. They should have done something. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: After all, he has taken it up. You should be happy.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Shri Gulam Nabi is present here, he can say something in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to it.

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, we would take up this issue with the concerned Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like this. This is not a Question-Answer Session between the two of you. Now, Shri Prabodh Panda.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda, please be very brief.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please cooperate.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He also already stated that on this issue.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am raising an issue with regard to the Minimum Support Price. The Minimum Support Price has not been announced by the Union Government. *...(Interruptions)* Till this day, no Minimum Support Price has been announced by the Union Government. So, I urge upon the Government that they should act upon this. I particularly urge upon the Agriculture Ministry to come out with an announcement on the Minimum Support Price immediately.

So far as the price of raw jute is concerned, I appeal to the concerned Ministry to ponder over the issue of

giving a Minimum Support Price of not less than Rs. 1,500 per quintal, this year. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Prabhunath Singh, please be very brief.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Every day, I am trying to give you an opportunity to speak. So, kindly cooperate with the Chair and be very brief.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of floods in Bihar has already been raised in the House and everybody had expressed his views at that time.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time given to you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Since the day the Government said that it was going to take action and provide relief to flood affected people, around 100 people have died due to floods.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that this matter is under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Talks have been held with the Chief Minister. I have read the newspapers that Assam has been provided helicopter and funds to deal with the floods situation, but Bihar has only been given assurance uptill now. I request that flood victims in Bihar should be provided relief at the earliest. More than 100

people have died due to floods there. Relief material and medicines are not reaching the affected people. The relief material being thrown by the helicopter is floating in the water. The Central Government should take steps in the interest of Bihar at the earliest.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that this matter is being looked into seriously. Now, Shri Lakshman Seth. Please speak to the point.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to speak, and he is raising a very important matter before us.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the Government has assured it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the former Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes was stripped and searched twice by the officials at the Washington's Dalas airport in 2002 and 2003 respectively. This incident has completely demolished the prestige of our country. But it is a mystery to everyone as to why he did not disclose this incident to the nation. He did not disclose about an incident, which is a humiliation to this nation. It is an insult to the people of our country, and it is a slap to the national sovereignty. ...(*Interruptions*) So, I think the Government of India should condemn this incident and warn the United States Government to maintain proper cultural and diplomatic relationship with our country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, everybody wants to speak on this issue. Please allow him to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already stated that I will not call those persons who interrupt the proceedings of the House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: This uncultured behaviour of the United State Government is very much painful and the people of our country should stand by our national prestige and national sovereignty. ...(*Interruptions*)

So, I would request that the Government of India should condemn this sort of an incident and warn the Government of USA not to repeat such an incident. The Government of India should also ask U.S. to pack-up the FBI offices from our country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please associate yourself with the issue that was raised by Shri Lakshman Seth.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I associate.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Richard Armitage should also be stripped and searched at the airport. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Shri Hannan Mollah, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth, please sit down. You must sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please speak, and please be brief.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will everybody speak for five minutes on the same issue to be raised? No.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They are all similar notices, so you all just associate yourselves with the issue that has been raised.

...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an American officer carried out frisking of Shri Geogre Sahib in 2002 & 2003 by forcing him take his clothes off at the Dalas Airport. How the officer forced him take his clothes off and touched which part of his body! ...(*Interruptions*) This is the question of nation's pride. So

I want the Government to make a statement over it. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble George Sahib had informed the then Prime Minister of this incident but the hon'ble Prime Minister remained silent. ...*(Interruptions)* The nation has the full right to know about it, it is the question of the nation's pride.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down, Mr. Laxman Seth?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The then Government continued to make statements that they were adding to the nation's pride, India was in a strong position the world over. I would like to know as to how has this incident hurt the nation's pride? This incident has insulted 100 crore people of the country. The Government should clear the situation by making a statement over it. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should tell the countrymen as to why they have not been apprised of this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow anybody. I have called Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be allowed to speak. This is the question of the Party.

MR. SPEAKER: You can't interfere like this.

*[English]*

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav will speak and nobody else. Prabhunathji, Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such an incident has never taken place with any of the Defence Minister of the country since independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be quiet. Please listen to this matter. Let Members speak. If everybody is shouting, nothing is going on record. We are not showing responsible behaviour. I can tell you, nobody can browbeat me. Do not try to browbeat me.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This incident has insulted 100 crore people of the country. The then Prime Minister was apprised of this incident but he remained silent. ...*(Interruptions)* The American Minister of State Mr. Strob Talbot has stated this and then it was published through him. The same incident has not taken place with other Indian officers who accompanies the then Minister of Defence at that time. The NDA Government Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee has insulated the nation by remaining silent on this matter. The Government should make a statement over it. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. He has also given notice. Except Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, nothing else will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please be very brief. I am only requesting you to associate. No long speeches are necessary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded after I called Shri Dasgupta. Nothing else is being recorded. Why are you speaking? You can only create disturbance here.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri Dasgupta nothing else will be recorded. Shri Athawale, please rest assured, I will not allow you.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very important. The Defence Minister of a great country like India, the largest democracy in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): It is regretful that such an issue is being raised here. Whether such issue can be discussed this may. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether you are going to hold a discussion on this issue here? ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him just to associate. Please, just associate. You cannot make a long speech. Then, I have to change the entire procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received two Privilege notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. One is by Shri Shivraj Singh Choudhan. I have received your notice of question of privilege against the Minister of External Affairs for allegedly misleading the House on the issue of sending Indian troops to Iraq. The matter is under my consideration.

Shri P.C. Thomas has also given a notice of privilege. The comments of the Minister of Agriculture on your notice of question of privilege have since been received. The matter is under my consideration.

Now, we come to Railway Budget. Shri Lalu Prasad.

12.46 hrs.

**RAILWAY BUDGET, 2004-2005-GENERAL  
DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—  
RAILWAYS, 2004-2005-Contd.**

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I'll first of all ..... all those hon'ble member. ...(Interruptions)

(*At this stage, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and some other hon'ble members left the House*)

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion is over. Please cooperate. I have called the hon'ble Minister to reply on the Railway Budget.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I welcome the statement of the hon'ble Minister of Railway about Railway Safety Fund and introducing Kulihs in the railways.

More security arrangements should be made at the railway line passing through the colonies. Every railway crossing should be converted into manned railway crossing. There should be clean drinking water and toilets should be kept clean. The T.V. sets, installed at Jaipur railway station to watch news etc., should be restarted.

A new Zonal office of North-West Railway has been inaugurated at Jaipur. Kota division should also be included in it as it will be very convenient to the people.

Train No.-4860/4859 Intercity Express Jodhpur-Jaipur-Delhi goes upto Sarai Rohilla Station only, which creates problems for passengers going to Delhi. Therefore, this train should be extended upto old Delhi. Besides, according to demand of the people of Jaipur and Rajasthan, there is a need to introduce a train which departs from Ajmer-Jaipur at night and reaches Haridwar as night service in the evening and reaches Jaipur-Ajmer in the morning. Then there will be a direct link between Pushkar and Haridwar. This will also serve the very purpose of people of Rajasthan for going to Haridwar.

There is a need to introduce an EMU (Daily Passenger Train) between Jaipur and Ajmer. Earlier, the Jaipur-Banda Express train used to depart from Jaipur at 7.00 hrs. and reach Ajmer at 9.40 hrs. in the morning. Now this train has 24 coaches and its departure time from Jaipur is 4.50 hrs. It reaches Ajmer at 11.15 hrs. now. Due to this, daily passengers find it very difficult to reach their offices in time at Ajmer. You are requested to introduce a new EMU train between Jaipur and Ajmer which reaches Ajmer at 9.40 hrs. departing from Jaipur at 7.00 hrs. It will be very convenient to the passenger and also increase the revenue of railways.

There is a need to provide stoppage of some trains at the following stations according to the strong demand of the passengers of this area.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Girdhar Lal Bhargava]

Train Name	Halting Station
2916/2915	Delhi-Ahmedabad Super fast Ashram Express
9265/2966	Okha-Dehradun Express (Weekly)
4860/4849	Jodhpur-Delhi, Intercity Express
4853/4854	4863-4864 Jodhpur-Banaras, Marudhar Express
2462/2461	Jodhpur-Delhi, Super Fast-Gandor Express
9769/2461	Jaipur-Patna Meenakshi Express
4312/4311	New Bhuj-Bareilli Express (Wanch Weekly)
9266/9265	Okha-Dehradun
4312/4311	New Bhuj-Bareilli Express (Weekly)
2466/2465	Jodhpur-Savai Madhopur Intercity
	This train should be started as passenger train between Jaipur-Savai Madhopur.
2916/2915	Delhi-Ahmedabad, Ashram Express (Super fast)

Arrangements for sitting reservation should be made in Ashram Express for travelling between Delhi and Jaipur so that passengers between Delhi and Jaipur may travel conveniently. Such an arrangement is available in train No.-2494 running from Jaipur-Delhi. Sitting reservation in sleeper coaches should be made available for the passengers travelling from Jaipur to Delhi. It will be very convenient for the passengers and also increase the revenue of the railways. New trains be introduced between Jaipur-Chandigarh, Jaipur-Jabalpur and Jaipur-Puri. At present Kalinga Utkal Express No. 8476/8477 is running between Puri-Nizamuddin. There is another train i.e. 8407/8408 on the same route. Hence the much awaited demand of the people could be fulfilled if the train No. 8476/8477 is re-routed via Mathura-Alwar-Jaipur.

Train No. 2801/2802, Purushottam Express running between New Delhi-Puri departs from Puri and arrives at New Delhi at 4.40 AM. This train could be extended upto Jaipur through the Shatabdi Express route and be started from Jaipur via Delhi for Puri. At present this train departs from New Delhi station at 22.35 P.M., it

could be terminated at Jaipur and then starts its return journey from there.

\*SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, opposing the present railway budget I would like to submit that the Minister of Railways has presented this budget keeping in mind only one state and that too in view of the forthcoming elections for the State Assembly. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways that he did not criticise any of the rail budgets presented by the previous Government and has undertaken to carry forward the works suggested by the erstwhile Minister of Railways. Special attention should be paid towards gauge conversion, safety measures and other related problems and transparency should be maintained in every work. This is unfortunate that the hon'ble Minister of Railways has adopted a cheaper way to obtain popularity. The number of railway employees is going down continuously and it seems that their number will further decrease in the years ahead. I would like to submit that the Minister of Railways should pay attention towards it and new appointments should be made instead of curtailing their number. The hon'ble Minister of Railways should take effective steps in this regard. As I have told earlier several important states have been ignored in the present rail budget. No attention has been paid towards our state i.e. Uttar Pradesh whereas all the Bihar-bound trains passes through Uttar Pradesh. I would like to submit that the Minister of Railways should pay special attention towards it and desist from a step-motherly treatment with Uttar Pradesh. I would like to make a request that adequate facilities should be made in the trains and basic amenities should also be provided in the passenger trains and in Janata Express. It is also noticeable in this regard that Chair car coaches should be provided for daily commuters and commuters travelling short distances. I would like to draw his attention towards one more problem that several passengers travel on the roofs of all the trains of the Northern Railway passing through Bihar which is not safe in any way. This creates possibilities of more accidents. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to pay special attention towards it and make travelling on the roofs of the trains a cognisable offence as well as to enforce it effectively.

Without speaking much in this regard, I would like to draw your attention towards some of the main problems of my constituency and I hope that you would pay special attention towards these problems and take appropriate action in this regard.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

I welcome the announcement made by the hon'ble Minister of Railways for the setting up of a rail factory in his constituency. But no attention has been paid towards Bareilly which is the most appropriate place for setting up of rail factory. Twenty years back this place (Bareilly) had been considered as the most appropriate place for the setting up of a rail coach factory, but due to political reasons this coach factory could not be set up there and instead it was set up at some other place. At present there is a coach repair and crane manufacturing factory of the North-Eastern Railway in Bareilly which is on the verge of closure. I therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to kindly pay special attention towards it and take effective steps to explore the possibilities of setting up of a rail factory in Bareilly keeping in view the public interest of the city.

Some of the main problems of my constituency are as follows which require immediate action:

1. The doubling work of railway-line at the New Delhi-Moradabad route is going on at a very slow pace. This doubling-work of the railway line should be expedited and completed within a time-frame.
2. Kachchalaghat bridge (North-Eastern Railway) is quite old and in a dilapidated condition which is posing danger of accidents all the time. This bridge, which is being used for both the rail and road transport, should immediately be renovated.
3. The demand for gauge-conversion of the Bareilly-Nowabganj-Pilibhit rail route and the Bareilly-Badeun-Agra Fort rail route is pending since long. This work should be taken up on a priority basis.
4. Over-bridges are required at some of the places of Bareilly which are as follows:
  - Near the Nagaria-Sadat railway station between Meerganj-Milak (Rampur) at the National Highway No. 24.
  - Near Bhattaura railway station at Fatehganj West (Bareilly) on the National Highway No. 24.
  - Katghar (enroute the cremation ground) north-eastern railway, Bareilly city.
  - At the heartman college railway crossing (North-Eastern railway, Bareilly city).

- Infront of the Central Jail near the Izzatnagar station (North-eastern railway, Bareilly city).
5. To connect Bareilly with the southern states convenient trains should be introduced.
  6. New Delhi-Bareilly-Guwahati Rajdhani Express should be run for four days instead of two days in a week.
  7. There is no direct train between Bareilly-Kanpur. Necessary action may be taken in this regard keeping in view the public interest.
  8. City booking agency should be set up at Rajendra Nagar and Kutulkhana, which are in the heart of the Bareilly city keeping in view the requirement.
  9. Railway Higher-Secondary School at Bareilly should be upgraded to an Inter college as per the requirement.

I have repeatedly been asking for resolving certain major problems of the city as well for providing basic facilities at the Bareilly junction since long. I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to pay special attention towards it and appropriate and effective action may kindly be taken in this regard.

\*SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Railways Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways. It gives a sheer desperation because no passenger security measures have been provided by the hon. Minister of Railways.

The decision to serve tea in the earthen cup to the railway passengers reflects Tuglaky mentality. It is right that some potters will get a job but on the other hand, using the clay to make earthen cup will spoil the fertile hand and earthen cup will not converted into soil again. Moreover, it will not be eco-friendly too.

Taking tea in earthen cup is likely to affect the health of the passengers as the earthen residual may enter into the body. No trains or railway works have been approved for Uttaranchal State in this budget. The Sampooma Kranti Express or Delhi-Kathgodam trains, as mentioned in the budget, had already been approved by the erstwhile NDA Government.

I demand to the hon. Minister of Railways during discussion of the Railways Budget to introduce following trains or rail lines for Uttaranchal.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

First of all a new express train may be introduced from Kathgodam to Jammu-Tawi via Ambala. This demand is being raised by traders and Sikh pilgrims of Kumaon region and the soldiers deployed at border areas for a long time. I hope that it will be accepted.

In addition to it a daily express train should also be introduced from Kathgodam to Mumbai or Ahmedabad. A new train should be introduced to run on daily basis by connecting rail line of Tanakpur-Kathgodam-Ramnagar-Kotdwar-Haridwar-Dehradun route because it will connect not only state capital but also Kumaon or Garhwal Mandal (division) too.

There has been a demand for long time that a train should be introduced from Tanakpur to Champawat or Bageswar and train service may also be started from Ram Nagar to Chaukhutia by constructing new railways line. There has been a long standing demand in this regard. The survey work was also conducted for these rail routes during the British period.

So I demand that the survey work of Tanakpur, Champawat-Bageswar and Ramnagar-Chaukhutia rail line should be conducted this year itself and approval may be accorded thereon.

Simultaneously, I demand to introduce P.R.S. (computerized Reservation Service system for Ranikhet which was approved earlier at the earliest.

In addition to it I demand to approve computerized Reservation system nearest areas like Gangolihat Berinag, Didihat, Chaukhutia, Bhikiasen, Selt, Dharchula, Munyari as well as Tanakpur in my parliamentary constituency. I hope that the hon. Minister of Railways will accord his approval to my proposal.

I conclude my speech with these words.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Lajuji, one minute please.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. I am not appreciating your method. By creating disturbance you cannot get advantage. Since you are a new Member, I am allowing you. Do not learn this tactic from others.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Yes, Sir. At the time of preparing the Railway Budget, Shri Lalu Prasad has forgotten the North-Eastern part of India, that is the most disturbing point for us. That is the reason

why we want to put forth some points so that the Minister could add them in the Railway Budget.

Firstly, there should be a North-East Railway Zone for the entire North-Eastern States, including Sikkim. Secondly, there is no double track broad gauge railway line. That is why we want double track broad gauge railway lines. Thirdly, we want a double track broad gauge line from Rangiya to Mure Kongselek Fourthly, more money should be given to the rail-cum-road bridge at Bogibeel. In this Budget, little money has been earmarked.

Fifthly, Rajdhani service to Dibrugarh should be run on a daily basis. Sixthly, Railway started its work in Dibrugarh in 1846 immediately after Thane (Maharashtra) Hence Dibrugarh should be declared as a Railways Heritage Centre. Seventhly, construction of rail-cum-road bridge should be constructed at Sadiya. Eighthly, construction of Rangiya Rail Division should be expedited. Ninthly, construction of railway over-bridges at the railway crossings in Shantipara (Dibrugarh), Changchari (Kamrup) and Thekeraguri (Nagoan) should be constructed.

MR. SPEAKER: How many points you have?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Only two or three points, Sir. There is an urgent requirement of introducing inter-city railway service to cater to the genuine needs of the people of the region. Special concession on railway fares to those patients who come out for medical treatment in other parts of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You send other points to the Minister by letter.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Hundred per cent job reservation in Grade 'C' and 'D' posts of Railway services should be made.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind cooperation.

[Translation]

\*SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget. First of all I support and welcome this Railways Budget presented by the coalition Government of the United Progressive Alliance. The hon. Minister of Railways has neither increased the passengers fare nor the freight charges. Adequate attention has been given to poor people of

\*Not recorded.



India in the Railways Budget. Khadi is being promoted which was on the verge of closure. I would like to request to the Government to chalk out such a policy so as to promote the handloom sector ensuring that the future of the people related to this industry be protected and they may not face financial constraints. Concession to war widow and fifty percent concession to co-passenger of deaf and dumb people have been given. Humanitarian approach is seen in this Railway Budget. So we should support this budget whole heartedly. This Railways budget is pro-poor budget. It will fulfill the aspiration of poor people of the country—We all should admire the hon. Minister for this budget. Whenever a discussion is taken place about poor people, we should welcome it and nobody should have any objection to it.

The hon. Minister has mentioned about new factories in this budget. The people will get employment by setting up of factories spare parts of Railways will be manufactured in the country itself and new technology will be developed. New trains are introduced by the Railways from time to time. This time also the hon. Minister has announced to introduce 18 new trains in this Railways Budget. Colliers with their spouse can travel from one station to another station without spending money on the ticket. This concession is a welcome step.

Special recruitment drive to fill up the reserved vacancies has also been mentioned. This step of hon. Minister is also praiseworthy.

A provision has also been made to prevent train accidents. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent Nainital constituency in Uttaranchal state of the country. My constituency needs a lot of reforms in Railway Sector. Minister of Railways was got acquainted with the problems of railway sector in Uttaranchal by honourable Chief Minister Shri Narain Dutta Tiwari too. I also drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards there problems through my letters. It is my submission to the hon. Minister that kindly address the problems as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request to the hon. Minister, through you, that he may issue orders to overcome all the problems related to the railways in Uttaranchal state. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my thank again to you and express gratitude to the hon. Minister of Railways for presenting the Railways Budget in favour of poor people.

[English]

\*SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Shri Lajuji, Hon'ble Minister for Railways regarding the new introduction of a railway Nilambur-Nangangudi-Mysore. It is connecting three States. If it is done, the cash crops produced in Waynad District can be brought to Cochin easily. Tourism can be promoted. South-North distance 386 kms. will be saved. The existing distance from Kerala to New Delhi is 2753 kms whereas the proposed route via Mysore is 236 Kms. Thus 386 kms is saved. New survey may be conducted.

\*SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I rise to inform the House through you, Sir, the appalling conditions of Railways in Punjab and blatant disregard of the border State while making the Railway Budget. Hon'ble, Sir, there is no new proposals for new lines in Punjab the State has been completely ignored while making provisions for new projects in Punjab.

Hon'ble Sir, even the progress of work on the projects sanctioned by the previous Governments is very slow and it is likely that they may not be completed in time now. Contrary to the large demands of new trains from all parts of the State and ignoring all feasibility studies to earn revenue from Punjab which is the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh as well, not even a single train has been given to Punjab. Hon'ble Sir, on Delhi-Amritsar sector also no new train has been added.

Hon'ble Sir, like other parts of India, railways is also the lifeline of Punjab State and no new project has been provisioned for the State in this Railway Budget.

Hon'ble Sir, people of Punjab State are awful and horrifying. People travelling from a Ludhiana-Amritsar region have started switching to other modes of transport. There have been a number of accidents causing many lives.

From my party together with our partners, we will personally meet the Hon'ble Railway Minister and would write to him to start new trains from Punjab, to make provisions for a number of overbridges and to sanction new line and super projects for the State.

[Translation]

\*SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all that glitters is not gold

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil]

in the same way there is a severe difference between the gimmick and the ultimate output of this railway budget. When Laluji assumed the charge of the Ministry of Railways, he sent details of the pending projects of their respective areas to all the hon. Members and I had also got a letter in this regard. We thanked him and apprised him of the problems of our respective areas. But, after going through the budget it seems that no any action has been taken on the letters received from the hon. Members. The Minister of Railways wrote letters for amusing the hon. Members.

In Marathwada region, Akola Poorna gauge conversion work is going on. There is a need of Rs. 20583 crore for completion of this project. But the Government have allocated Rs. 20 crore only. Marathwada region will remain grateful if the amount allocated for this purpose is enhanced from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 100 crore otherwise we will remain dissatisfied.

The gauge conversion work is going on at Sikandrabad-Mudkhed Rail section needs Rs. 46.25 crore but Rs. 25 crore have been allocated, resulting which the said work will not complete in the prescribed period. In public interest the said gauge conversion work should be completed at the earliest. This work would have been completed had an additional amount of Rs. 20.25 crore been allocated. If the said work is completed, then the people of Andhra Pradesh visiting Kachiguda Manmad Mumbai will have to travel short distance.

I would like to inform the Government about such work, which needs no money. It will benefit both the railways and the public. There is urgent need of laying new railway line in Ahmedabad Bead which requires Rs. 353.08 crore. But, the Government has allocated Rs. 20 crore only. If the said railway line is laid via Sonpeth then it costs less as well as the distance may be less. But, there is to construct so many bridges on the proposed railway line. It is apprehended that laying of railway line of those bridges may cost dear. Sonpeth is tehsil headquarter of my parliamentary constituency and also main centre of agriculture production. The cotton grown in this area is being exported. If the said line is laid via Sonpeth, the farmers of this area will be benefited and this backward area may get an opportunity of development. The railway may also earn more revenue.

Presently, Nanded Railway Division falls within the jurisdiction of South Central Railway, Sikandrabad, resulting which the propel of Nanded have to face many

problems. Many problems can be solved if the services of the officers of the Nanded Railway Division are brought with in the purview of the Central Railway. It will also help the Railway division in smooth functioning. The Government have only to issue order in this regard.

I oppose this Budget.

\*SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Rail Budget 2004-2005 which is a historical budget.

After independence, importance has been given to the backward areas first time. The hon. Minister of Railways has provided an opportunity to provide employment to the crores of backward unemployed of the country by initiating the use of Kulhad, Khadi, Lassi and Mattha.

By promoting khadi, effort has been made fulfill the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. Historical step has been taken by allowing free travel to the unemployed going to appear in the Central Services Recruitment Examinations. Due to want of money, many unemployed, poor educated youth were deprived of appearing in the examination in far-flung areas. Opportunity has been provided to them to appear in the examination.

All of us know that for the first time passenger fare has not been hiked in the history of the railways. Announcement has been made for construction of Retiring-room for the most vulnerable and ignored coolies working with the railways. Social Justice has been done by providing facility of free rail pass alongwith their spouse.

I am giving some suggestion regarding the project:

1. Gauge conversion work of Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra should be get completed at the earliest.
2. Development and beautification of all the stations falling between Rajapatti station to Jalaipur station.
3. Computerisation of Reservation Centre of Hathua and Didhva Duboli Railway station.
4. Laying of new railway line from Thave Junction to Devaria Sadar via Selarkala, Phulvaria, Bathua, Jamnuha Panchevri, Bhogpatti and Bhagipatti to Deveria Sadar via Kattiya, Vijayipur.

5. Didhavaduboli station should be declared as Junction instead of Misrikh station.
6. Instead of connecting Maharajganj to Misrikh, it should be connected to Didhavaduboli.
7. My suggestion is that a railway factory should be set up on 1200 acres of wasteland in Sipaya under Gopalganj district so that thousands of unemployed can get employment and it should help in eradicating unemployment in district Gopalganj.
8. Rattan Sarai-Samasuma-Sipaya-Didhavaduboli-Nechua Jalalpur should be connected to Chhapra main line.
9. Chhapra should be connected to Thave by broad gauge line and an express train named Thave Bhavani Express should be started on this route.
10. It is impossible for the common man and labour class people to travel in AC Coach of Rajdhani and Sampooran Kranti Express originating from Patna in Bihar. My suggestion is that at least two coaches of third class/general AC Coaches should be attached to the said trains so that the common man and labour class people feel proud while travelling with the very important persons (V.I.P.) and reach Delhi at the same time.
11. Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani express should be routed through Hazipur-Siwan-Gorakhpur once in a week.
12. Railway line falling within Gopalganj area should be electrified. I profusely thank the hon. Minister of Railways for this Budget.

*[English]*

\*SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): On a dispassionate analysis. I find the Railway Budget-2004 presented last week, is a mere statement of mundane announcements, devoid of any vision or agenda to improve the railway services and to consolidate the progress achieved during the NDA regime.

There is no will or determination, reflected in the Budget to mobilise additional revenue to fund the ongoing projects. Probably no fare hikes for passengers or raise in freight tariff were attempted for fear of incurring the

wrath of masses, more so when crucial assembly elections in Maharashtra in October and later elsewhere are to take place. Thus the Budget has turned out to be populist as it seems the Hon'ble Railway Minister is adept in playing to the gallery.

Though there has been a recent spurt in accidents, the latest being the derailment of Matsyagandha Express on Konkan route, there is no specific measure announced for intensifying the track patrolling, equipping the gang-staff with latest walkie-talkie and improvement in signalling system etc. further the safety of the passengers on board especially women are not taken note of, since it is observed that many incidences of thefts and burglary on running trains have been reported with women suffering most. Additional deployment of security men in Ladies Coaches both on long-distance trains and locals carrying daily commuters in Mumbai and other metro cities.

The entire rail stretch in my constituency falls under Konkan Railways. Long distance trains including Rajdhani destined for Kerala pass through Dakshin Kannada coast and compared to facilities offered to travellers from Kerala who are north-bound and vice-versa on these trains in terms of quota of berths under reservation, the passengers from Kankanady, Udupi and Kundapura need to be provided with more reservation quota on all important trains including Rajdhani. It is further suggested that a new bi-weekly express between Kandanady and Delhi via Konkan route be started to easy and comfortable travel of passengers boarding from these stations. Passenger amenities in Udupi, Kundapura etc. in terms of more platforms, waiting sheds, rest rooms and ample parking space should also be provided considering the growth in traffic volume, since Dakshinar Kannada attracts a large number of tourists and pilgrims from all over the country.

The people of my constituency have contributed a lot in the construction of Konkan route track both in terms of land required to lay the track and also providing labour. As a pre-condition for land acquisition, each family whose land-holdings were acquired by KRC, was assured of employment for one able bodied member of the family in Konkan Railways and also vending rights in stations on the route through allotment of railway stalls. There are many such families, whose land holdings were acquired by KRC, still waiting to be offered employment for its member nominees. I would request the Government to honour the pledge made to these families, by evolving a timeframe to provide employment to such person in KRC.

Mangalore-Hassan metre gauge link was dismantled almost a decade ago for gauge conversion to broad

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Smt. Manorama Madhavra]

gauge. The people in the area who had availed the facility of metre gauge link between Mangalore-Hassan for long, stand deprived of any transportation link for more than a decade. In the interest of all-round development of this area, it is imperative that the rest of the link—from Subramanya to Hassan be taken up through provision of adequate funds in the current Railway Budget.

A part of the Central Road Fund is supposed to be spent on building under-cover bridges on road/rail intersections. There are many such intersections in Konkan route that need to be provided with such under-bridge/over-bridge facility. I request you to prevail upon the Government to ensure that these suggestions are taken note of.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in marathan discussion on Rail Budget 2004-2005 and have also given their valuable suggestions.

A number of hon. Members have expressed their views and some of them have laid their written speeches on the Table of the House. Its my pleasure that most of the hon. Members have appreciated Rail Budget and NDA and BJP Members have also appreciated and made personal requests. However, it is very painful that whenever I stand up to speak they stage walkout.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): They have no axe to grind.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It does not behove to criticise anyone in absentia. According to our traditions and culture, it is better to take people head on. It's strange they do not talk face to face. I have become disciplined since I became the Rail Minister. They must be somewhere listening to my speech, because it is their first interface with me.

I thank respected Mamtaji. She is present here today and is listening to my reply to discussion on the Rail Budget.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): I am listening to the reply on the Rail Budget.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: She is my sister also. So, I thank her. We have forgotten the path shown by our forefathers, Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit

Jawahar Lal Nehru, Acharya Narendra Dev, Vinoba Bhave etc. All the people of the country, may follow different religions but live unitedly. The beauty of our country is that people speaking different languages and following different religions live here. There are different regions and varied types of festivals are celebrated over here. This is the beauty of our country. The Government is working under the guidance of honourable Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. I do not understand why these people get irritated whenever we mentioned the name of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. In future we will have to keep them in good humour. Why are they so restless after losing power? They are restless because they never thought that they will have to face such adverse times. I am not saying all this because I am today a Minister.

Rarely can we find the instances of people like Sonijai, whom the people of the country carried to great heights of power, renouncing everything after reaching there. That is why, I say that NDA and BJP followers and those with lust of power must learn a lesson from Sonijai. Hence, I advise that one should salute here while entering not openly but in heart certainly and of course while going back too. Trains get derailed but many of the leaders have also got derailed after losing power. They talk about Karachi when they need to talk about Ranchi. Rail Budget has been presented to the people of the country through Parliament under the leadership of Manmohanji. It is a mirror wherein I directly see the symptoms. I travel all over India and see that people with faith in various religions, belonging to various castes and categories and all types of people want their aspirations to be fulfilled. My Government and Railway will see to it that hopes and aspirations of people of India get translated into action.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Railway has got third place in the world. The hon. Prime Minister, Chairman of pre-poll alliance Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Finance Minister have introduced Common Minimum Programme and are committed to take advice of all the Ministers to implement the programme. Newspapers reported that an Army General was called to RSS camp to brief the RSS conference. They indulge in double talks. No duality will be allowed in this country and public has not let it work. Never will there be any party or force in India who came into power by torturing abusing or insulting the minorities. Even if it has attained power once it will not win again. All the respected Members of all parties have encouraged me to say that elite class, which portrays us in a particular fashion is being insulted for the last 13-14 years. I know it very well that various classes and categories to which

we belong our forefathers have been maltreated like this. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been branded as jokers, clowns etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: People have given verdict in your favour. People have elected you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to all such issues. The people of the country in general and the people of Bihar in particular have rejected their cunningness and cleverness. It has been an issue of discussion that Lalu will increase the Railway fare of A.C. first Class apart from taking many more such measures. But as the hon. Member has said that with the setting up of big mills and the introduction of New Technologies, factories located in the rural areas were closed down. I have got a Bengali newspaper vide licit 'Aaj Tak' that features a youngman sitting idle in depression. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not show it. It is not permissible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It is okay I will not show it if not permissible. Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I am bound to follow the rules and procedures, and as I said, I have become disciplined after assuming the office of the Minister. Therefore, please correct wherever there is violation.

MR. SPEAKER: You give your reply on the budget.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government has taken a move to help the poor by encouraging them to make Kulhads. Shri Prabhunath Singhji was saying that the Yadav are out of job. That is why, they are not longer in the possession of cows and buffaloes—which enabled them to prepare Mattha, Lassi and the other milk products. We are used to having curd. But in case of those who have not got an opportunity to eat curd take the impure one to be pure curd.

13.00 hrs.

The curd of skimmed milk given reddish tinge and having sugar in it is served as sweet curd to our

honourable Bengali brethren. Therefore, the Railways and our Government do not want to serve curd made of skimmed milk to our consumers who by and large, are our guests, our career and our source of income. We want to serve them Mattha extracted from good quality milk, Lassi and curd. It is not that I am doing all this for a particular caste or community. The other co-operatives, those who are not with us such as those belonging to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), the Bajrang Dal, the RSS, had made a black law for the persons engaged in cattle breeding and had banned the booking of cows, buffaloes and the other milk-animals in trains in the states of Kolkata, Haryana etc. The MP of Ghaziabad Shri Goyal is very much present here. People faced a lot of inconvenience when the cows, buffaloes of Punjab-farmers were brought to Ghaziabad or Sonapur fair. Every citizen of the country cannot be provided with employment. But lakhs and crores of people were engaged in the milk-business. Those who carried their cattle by trains were alleged to be carrying them for killing. Those who are in the pursuit of cattle breeding can not afford to kill them. However, all their cows and buffaloes were looted at Ghaziabad during their regime.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the obvious reasons, I have talked of the unemployment. As soon as, I assumed the office of the Minister of Railways, I had my talks with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and discussed matter regarding imposition of the law to this effect in the State. Not just that, I had also talks with the Environment department. I am glad that the department of Environment that had imposed a ban on the loading of cattle, cows and calves which was a source of employment to the lakhs of people has lifted the restriction. We have allowed the carriage of animals by train. This will enable the people to rise. This is our Commitment. We want to generate employment. Not just Kulhar or Khadi but our weavers and the spinners should learn to compete. Factories in this field had suffered loss. As regard, Khadi and Charkha, Bapu once said that Khadi was the uniform of independence. This was the uniform worn by crores of people during the struggle for freedom. In those days when England and America were the centres of textile production and the East India Company would undertake marketing services in India. I do not want to go into details. Mr. Basudebji would have better knowledge of things that happened over there.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All have supported you.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Thank you, Sir, this has generated employment for crores of people and is going to create more and more employment. We will also include those people from South and Kerala who are engaged in making fray from betel-nuts. We are going to undertake work in the Railways wherever it required. Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, there has been an increase in loading by 8.22 million tonnes as compared to the first quarter of the previous year. People doubt whether there would be adequate resources. I assure you that there would not be inadequacy of funds. We want to bring Indian Railways at the top in the world with whatever resources we have. There is no shortage of funds. Only the approach was not proper. We charge the amount and make investment of funds. This is why load that had been shifted to be carried by trucks is being reverted to the Railways itself. We were not able to manufacture coaches for the Konkan Railways. If wheels and cranes, are imported and huge amount is paid for this purpose then what is the role of our economy? We continue to import and we did not export anything last year. All the factories of the Railways equipments in almost every state of our country are all morbid. Our mechanics and the people of India in general are very skilled. Even if a vehicle goes out of order, suppose, its silencer is broken, they manage it by tying a rope thereon. We are an improvising country. But now we are also turning to fashion. We are getting modern. 'Bapu' was not found of suits. Was he not found of pants and shirts? Did he not have money? Father of the Nation—Mahatma Gandhi always put on dhoti—half of it he used to donate and the other half he wrapped on his body. When the dhoti got torn, our aged mother used to make a mattress (gudar) of all the rag and tag; whenever a guest arrived that mattress (gudar) was laid out for him as well as it was used for drying up foodgrains. Even if that 'gudar' gets torn, our mother used it to serve the purpose of cleaning and tidy up the House. How are the things today? People go to a function, see a woman, one woman envies the other and thinks that she should also have as many ornaments as the other one has.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But you also want female passengers.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: How the money will be saved? How the condition of the country will improve? The Railways are not a trifle thing.

Some of them had even entered Media. They entered, but it is good that our people are great who avoid Media. It reaches our people after 10-15 days. There are also good people in Media, there are progressive people too, moreover we do not have shortage of funds. Many hon'ble Members have alleged that Lalu neglected their states. There are Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Bengal, Karnataka and there are the Seven Sister states. I shall myself visit all these states and discuss the matters with all the MPs and officers after the Budget Session of Parliament is over. An amount of Rs. 46000 crores is required for completion of the ongoing projects. This delay is not caused by us. For one project the allocation is Rs. 5 lakh, for the other project it is Rs. 2 lakh, and a similar meagre allocation for the other. This is why people ask for more allocations.

I would like to read out a data. Mr. Speaker, Sir, still we have made the provisions. I would like to give details of the provision of funds to be provided after the Railway budget is passed. Expenditure of Rs. 274.92 crores was incurred in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2003-04. There is a provision of Rs. 290 crores for the year 2004-05. In Assam i.e. the North Eastern states Rs. 315 crores were spent last year and the same amount i.e. Rs. 315 crores has been allocated this year also. In addition to this there are other provisions also. Rs. 264 crores were spent in Bihar and for this year the total outlay is of Rs. 289 crores but people raise a hue and cry that I am providing everything to Bihar I am not a representative of Bihar alone. I am a Union Minister. If the Ministry get enough funds, the money will be utilized in Railways. The details which I have in my hand contain the data of funds spent last year and the allocations being made for this year in respect of each state. I lay it on the Table of the House. I would like to further add.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Fairidabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways has not paid any attention to Haryana. Haryana has not been benefitted.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Bhadanaji please take your seat. The Railway Minister has assured that he will visit every state. He will visit Haryana also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no attention has been paid to Haryana.  
...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He will visit the place and discuss with you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, in the last ten years, not a single railway line has been laid in Haryana. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We are running against time. He has to go to the other House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not refer to the States.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are disturbing your own Minister, then I do not know how we can function here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will tell about the expenditure incurred in Haryana during the last year and proposed for the current year. For Haryana, outlay for 2003-2004 was 23.33 crore rupees and proposed outlay for the current year is 41.56 crore rupees. It means, in the current year, the expenditure is double in comparison to last year. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Laluji please don't give details about each state.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are still many places in Haryana where people haven't even seen the train. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Punjab is not releasing water to us and Rail Minister is not sanctioning new trains. In such a situation, how the development of our region is possible. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Haryana is lagging behind in the matter of trains. The development of Haryana is directly linked to the development of Railway. I request that more funds should be provided for Haryana. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please sit down. We will provide you funds. At present, please pass this Rail

Budget that has been laid on the Table of House. We are arranging the funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Laluji, please don't give the details of funds of every state otherwise MPs of each state would ask about his state.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have your permission to ask a question from the hon'ble Rail Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: If Rail Minister yields, I don't have any objection.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You have given the account of every state. But I request you to investigate among the figures of every state, how much more or less amount has been spent on each state.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will get these figures checked. I would like to inform the House that, first of all, I had written a letter to all the M.Ps asking their suggestions about the places where new rail tracks need to be constructed or new trains are to be started. I have ordered to conduct the survey of all those places in those state, whose lists have been sent to me by the hon'ble Members.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I want to tell about the road overbridges i.e. R.O.B. The rule about ROB is that 50 percent of the cost is contributed by the State Government and the rest 50 percent is borne by the railway. Since the money in this overhead is not being spent, I have called a meeting of all the Chief Ministers. I have also written a letter to them asking about their demands of ROB's. I request the hon'ble MPs of all the states to send the proposals through their respective State Chief Ministers about their demands of ROB's. I will get those ROB's constructed within a time limit. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have given an assurance on it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: These people complained in their speeches that nothing has been given to Orissa. In Orissa 19 rail projects are under implementation out of which 6 relate to new rail line two to gauge conversion 9 to doubling and 2 projects relate to electrification. These

[Shri Lalu Prasad]  
projects require 2788 crore rupees. On their completion, 1125 kilometers of broad gauge line will be added. Last year 279.17 crore rupees were allocated to Orissa for these projects, out of which only 275.67 crore rupees have been spent. In the year 2004-05, 317.33 crore rupees have been allocated to Orissa for the projects; thus we have allocated more funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: There is wrong, publicity.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Of course, wrongly publicized because they are with NDA. ...*(Interruptions)* They know. ...*(Interruptions)* They look at the things upside down. ...*(Interruptions)* The details of the projects are attached herewith. It relates to Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Tell about Jharkhand.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We have allocated fund for it you can read it. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently 46,000 crore rupees are needed to complete the ongoing projects of railway and funds are being arranged. Whatever you are asking about remote areas, we are making provision for funds for the same. After this, proposals are prepared and then these are forwarded to Planning Commission and TC. This is the procedure. It is not that we can issue an order on receiving a letter, we will follow the procedure and provide railway facilities at the earliest to the remote areas where people do not avail this facility.

Sir, a group of hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh and Kerala met me. The representatives of Kerala requested to consider new proposals, introduce new trains and allocated funds. I agree with the hon. Member's view that projects should be completed soon. I assure the hon. Members that keeping in view the availability of resources, I would pay proper attention to the demand for more funds for projects in Kerala and even increase the allocation if required I will visit the state on priority basis. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Sir, I would like to ask on an important point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No important point. Unless the Minister yields, I cannot allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You can ask later on, I will reply then. ...*(Interruptions)* The latest survey regarding the rest of doubling works of Ernakulam-Kayankulam route via Kottayam, Alleppi is being taken up in Kerala. The survey of new railway lines for Kuduppa-Bangalore, Nadikudi-Shrikalahasti, Machlipattanam-Repalli, Vishnupuram-Jaggyapet, Raidurg-Tumkur in Andhra Pradesh has already been mentioned in my budget speech. The doubling of Secunderabad-Dronachalam via Mehabubnagar, Gadwal, Kurnool and the survey of Krishna Canal-Kuntur-Tenali line for doubling and electrification is also being taken up. As far as the restoration of Ajinganji-Jaganji line to Ghat is concerned. I have consulted the Defence Minister. Planning Commission has been approached to get this project approved and action would be taken in this regard as soon as we get the approval.

We will get the survey conducted for a line from Bihata to Aurangabad via Pali. hon. Shri Basu Deb Achara, Shri Satpathi, Shri Laxmi Narayana Pandey, Shri Ramji Lal Suman etc., have demanded to start new trains, increase the rounds of trains and give stoppage to certain trains on more stations. As far as running more trains is concerned, new trains are started every year. I have made the provision for introducing 15-20 trains in the budget due to popular demand. The rounds of certain trains have also been increased but there is a limit to everything. There is a need to enhance the capacity too for starting each new train. I want to tell about proposals for new trains to. There is a proposal to run a weekly train between Howrah and Mumbai via Bankura, Agra, Purulia. There is a proposal to run 6603-6604 Maveli Express running between Mangalore and Trivandrum twice a week instead of once. There is a proposal to run a new train from Kanpur to Chhattisgarh in the coming four months. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khalilabad): There should also be a train between Lucknow to Deoria, Barauni.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Your suggestion is good. Please listen to me first. I want to assure you that we propose to run a new train from Jaunpur, Ajamgarh in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi for the people of that area in the coming 6 months. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): I gave a proposal to run a train from Mathura. There is no train from there. ...*(Interruptions)*



MR. SPEAKER: How can he respond to every proposal.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I agree with your proposal too and I will see to it that a train starts from there. If I have not been able to take up anything here. I will take it up in Rail Bhawan. I have to speak thus here so that the Budget is passed. I will pay attention to Bangalore and other areas too. Our loading in comparison to interim budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): You have not done anything for Bihar. I requested to run a train for Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Vikram Shila Express has been started. You had asked to run Rajdhani every day, it is being experimented. I wanted to tell that we have increased loading by 7 million tonnes in comparison to Interim budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pallam Raju, you cannot have a running commentary take this. Please sit down. Unless the hon'ble Minister yields, I cannot allow you to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Shri Basu Deb Achariaji has given suggestions to increase the speed to passenger and goods trains, to remove trains, to remove the drawbacks of golden quadrilateral and increase its capacity. As I have outlined in my budget speech, the Ministry has decided to complete 62 focused tasks of increasing the tracks in order to carry the targeted freight and fulfil the demand of the core sector during the remaining period of the tenth plan.

Hon'ble Prabhunath Singhji, Ramjilal Sumanji and Laxmi Narayan Pandeyji and other parliamentarians have raised their concern over the situation of Railway safety and security. I would like to state that the Railway safety and security is the top priority of this Government. In the past also, several important steps have been taken in respect of safety in the Railway, as a result thereof there has been a substantial decline in the train accidents. I would like to assure the House these steps will cause fall in such incidents but progressive measures would also be taken for making the safety more effective.

So far as the security is concerned, the law and order in the Railway has basically been the subject of

the state Government. Recently, the Government has given some powers to the R.P.F. in this respect. In order to strengthen the RPF not only additional posts would be filled up in the current financial year but new posts are also being created as per the requirement.

In order to fulfil the shortfall of personnel in Railway Protection Force speedily, I have decided to recruit them direct through the security Department and not through the Railway Recruitment Board. Some members have raised their apprehension that Direct Recruitment may lead to corruption but I would like to say that it is not so. Whatever recruitment of the Parliamentary forces and the state police takes place, it is done by the state police only, and not through a commission. The recruitment of constable would take place through commission. When this recruitment would take place it would take place all over the country. It is unlikely that corruption would be allowed to creep in this process. The RPF squad would travel in the coaches.

Intergang rivalry is there in connection with Rail contracts. Some Untoward incidents have taken place because of this. In running train the number of murders is less but is high in the campus.

We have gone deep into it also. We have changed our policies in the case of Railway scrap, contracts and lease because of which crimes used to be committed in Railway campus. I would like to assure the house that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, in this new Government is ready to take on these criminal elements and Mafia groups. We would not allow anything of this sort in this country. They would be strictly dealt with.

Some hon. Members have drawn our attention towards corruption, theft and the Mafia group in the Railway scrap. In this connection, we have just explained. Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other members have raised their apprehension that the amount of Rs. 215 crore allocated for the amenities of the passengers is inadequate. I would like to point out that the allocation for the passenger's amenities has been made by the Zonal Railway. This is done on the basis of demands, progress of the work, and the availability of the money. For these tasks Rs., 178 crore, Rs. 175 crore and Rs. 169 crore respectively had been spent in the three years. Now the allocated amount of Rs. 215 crore is adequate.

My effort would be to make a visible improvement in the amenities for the passengers. The amount of IRs. 215 crore would be spent under the passenger

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

amenity scheme item. Further more, the Railway also incurs expenditure on some of the works pertaining to the passenger's amenities like TRS, UTS etc. which are included in other scheme items. I have tried to include the issues raised by the hon'ble members in my reply, may be some unimportant issues are left. So far as the specific issues raised by the members are concerned, they would be apprised of the situation through letters. Presently, a vote on account on Railway is to be passed thereafter the Railway Budget would be intensively reviewed by the Standing Committee on Railways, which would be followed by an extensive discussion on the report of the committee about demand for grants.

Smt. Mehbooba Mufti has stated that there has been a decrease in the amount for the railway Scheme of Jammu & Kashmir. It is not so. I would like to tell Mehboobaji that the money allocated to Jammu & Kashmir is adequate. Neither there has been any decrease in the amount nor would it be allowed to do so.

I would like to request all the members.  
...(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): When would train in Udhampur be introduced. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We are fixing the date, let the budget be passed first. ...(Interruptions)

Under the Jammu & Kashmir project an installment of Rs. 550 crore out of Rs. 5500 crores for the 290 km long new line is already sanctioned under the scheme. This year, there has been a demand for Rs. One thousand two hundred crore, out of which Rs. 300 crore has already been sanctioned. It has been assured that whatever amount could be spent, a provision for that would be made. Railways has a plan to spend Rs. One thousand two hundred crore in Jammu & Kashmir this year. Till now upto 31.3.2004, Rs. One thousand two hundred seventy nine crores have been spent. Therefore, the project of Jammu & Kashmir is to be brought in line with the mainstream. Jammu & Kashmir is part and parcel of our country. Therefore, it is on the top priority. We would complete the task within the given timeframe. Besides, the security there is also to be taken into consideration. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak about the Godhara incident of Gujarat State. Not only the nation but the world also has not known till date how those 59 passengers in the train were killed.

I am surprised and I regret to say that the railway authorities, the Union Minister of Railways, State Minister

of Railways or any senior railway official did not visit the place of incident. They talk about this incident, discuss over it, talks about the nation's security and criticize Soniaji. There is something doubtful, nobody had visited there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would seek your permission to submit that the railways did not feel any need for its investigation. No investigation was carried out. ...*(Interruptions)* whereas ordinary incidents are investigated. The Constitution of India has the highest place. Investigation was mandatory but it was not carried out. What was done in this regard was that the railway Security Commissioner wrote a letter after eight months of incident that he could not carry out investigation then. Consequently, Enquiry Commission has been set up but the condition did not allow to carry out investigation. No Union Minister, especially the Minister of Railways visited the place of incident. I would like to say and tell the nation that they are so much concerned about the nation. It is doubtful and untraceable to find the reason behind it. I regret that it was, in a way or the other, a big game that I had already understood. The Government of Gujarat made the issue one sided by talking of law and order. What the terms of reference of the then circumstances, phenomena, Godhra station, railway tickets dated 27.2.2004 and some compartments of the Sabarmati Express tell is that the train was set on fire. Nothing was traceable but it was concluded that someone had set the train on fire. They set up a judicial inquiry on it. The state government got the incident investigated. They as well as well, all advocated the examination. Due to the fire incident occurring in 9166 Muzaffarpur-Ahmedabad Sabarmati Express on 27.02.2002 near Godhra station of Western Railway, 59 people were killed, 24 injured and there was a big loss of the railway property too. The reasons for accident have not been traced even after 2½ years of occurring the accident. Neither the Railway Safety Commission has carried out a legal investigation under section 114 of the railway act 1989 nor the departmental investigation under section 115 has been done. No investigation was carried out. I regret to inform the House that the fire incident which took place in S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express in Godhara, was declared simply a fire incident by the then Minister of Railways in the NDA Government. After that human tragedy neither the then Union Minister of Railways nor the State Minister of Railways visited the place of incident. Everybody speaks in a different way, riots occurred in Gujarat, thousands of people were killed, we felt ashamed before the world. Nothing has been revealed till date. We sought the report of investigation carried out by them. With your permission, I would like to read the report of the FSL. What does the FSL report say? It is in English, I would like to read out the report for you:-

[English]

"Forensic Science Laboratory, State of Gujarat, Spot Investigation Report No. 2 regarding CR No. 9/2002, Godhra Railway Police Station.

A team of forensic experts had visited the place of offence on 3.5.2002 in which along with the undersigned Shri A.N. Joshi, Scientific Officer, Ahmedabad was included. In order to recreate the real picture of how the offence was committed on the day of incident, one coach of the train was kept on the same spot. With the help of different types of containers experimental demonstrations were also carried out by using liquids inside the said coach. On the basis of which the following conclusions were made.

1. It was found that the height of the window of the coach was around seven feet from the ground at the place. Under this circumstance, it was not possible to throw any inflammable fluid inside from outside the coach from any bucket or carboy, because by doing this, most of the fluid was getting thrown out side..."

[Translation]

It means the body deployed for carrying out the investigation, returned in between the demonstration. The experiment that has been carried out. ...(*Interruptions*) I have understood, have you ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

"...At the place of the incident, there was one heap of grit of three feet height at a distance of around 14 feet in the southern side of the coach. Water was thrown on the windows of the coach with the help of bucket standing on the top of the said heap, in that case only about 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the water went inside and the rest of the quantity was spilled outside itself. Thus if the inflammable fluid is thrown from outside then bottom side of the coach would have burnt. But after examination of the coach and the track, no effect was found of the fire on bottom side below the windows of the coach. By taking into consideration this fact and ..."

[Translation]

Later on, I will tell you in Hindi also.

[English]

"...also the burning pattern of the outer side of the coach, a conclusion can be drawn that no inflammable fluid had been thrown inside from outside of the coach..."

2. There also appears to be no possibility that any inflammable liquid was thrown through the door of the bogie.
3. By standing in the passage between the compartment of the bogey and the northern side door of the eastern side of the bogie, water was poured towards the western side from a container with a wide mouth like a bucket; in that case most part of the bogie was covered with 60 litres of water. By pouring the water in this manner, the water went only towards the West and no part of it came out of the door nor did it go towards the latrine side.
4. On the basis of the above experimental demonstration such a conclusion can be drawn that 60 litres of inflammable liquid was poured towards the western side by using a wide mouthed container by standing on the passage between the northern side door of the eastern side of the S-6 coach and the compartment of seat No. 72 and the coach was set on fire immediately thereafter. If the period after the train had started from Godhra Railway Station, intensity of fire; the degree of burn of the objects that were inside the bogie etc. are taken into account, it can also be concluded that a large quantity (around 60 litres) of highly inflammable fluid was used to set the aforesaid fire and that the fire had spread very rapidly.

[Translation]

There are the signatures of Mr. S. Dahiya, Assistant Director.

[English]

Note: the sketch of the coach and the sketch of the spot are included in the Report."

Spot investigation Report No. 1 regarding CR No., 9/2/2002., Godhra Railway Police Station.

"The forensic experts had visited the place of offence on 1/5/2002 in the team of the experts along with the

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

undersigned, the other experts were Shri A.R. Vaghela, Scientific Officer, Vadodara, Shri Yogesh Patel, Scientific Officer (Mobile), Panchmahal and Shri S.L. Desai, Photographer, Surat. The experts have made detailed investigation of the burnt down S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express trains. The said coach was kept in the yard of the Godhra Railway Station. The observations made on the basis of the formations learnt by the detailed examination of the coach are as under:

1. A large number of marks were observed on the outer part of the southern side of the burnt out S-6 coach which were due to stones. Apart from this, a large number of stones were found scattered inside the coach and similarly glass pieces were also seen. It was found that the said glass pieces were of the windows. From these observations it is possible to say that there was large-scale stone pelting on the coach from outside and the glasses of the southern side were primarily broken due to the stone throwing and the glasses of the northern side were broken due to heat of the fire.

2. From the condition of the colour on the door of the coach, the burning pattern, condition of the hand lock, the marks of the melting Aluminium strips of the frame of the window etc. it can be established that both the east-west doors of the northern side of the coach and similarly the eastern door of the southern side thus a total of three doors were opened at the time of the incident of fire and the door in the west direction of the southern side was closed.

[Translation]

When the coach caught fire the police went to rescue the passengers. It means that the coach was opened at that time.

[English]

3. Out of the windows in the southern side, one rod of one of the windows was found to be broken due to heat. As the height of the lower part of the window was more than 7 ft. from the ground, it negates the possibility of force on the rod from window side. Further it was not found that any instrument was used to bend the rod. Thus, it becomes clear that the rod was attempted to be broken by the use of force from inside of the coach. It appears that the other rods had become loose due to the melting of joints due to heat. ..."

[Translation]

Fire broke out inside the coach.

[English]

"4. By observing the burning pattern inside the coach, its degree, the depth and the elongating pattern on the floor, it appears that the fire had spread inside the coach very rapidly. Further by observing the intensity of the elongating pattern on the floor, it appears that the fire has started from the eastern side of the coach and thereafter spread towards western side rapidly. Further, it appears that the intensity and proportion of the burning of the objects inside the coach was very high, up to around 80 per cent part of the east to west side whereas in the 20 per cent part, the intensity of burning was less in comparison with 80 per cent part.

5. No sign was observed of the use of any corrosive fluid like acid in the said fire.

6. By observing the condition of the frames of the windows of the coach it appears that all the windows of the coach were closed during the time of the fire."

[Translation]

Sir, these are the signatures. The State Government laid down the terms and conditions after submission of the said report. Terms and Conditions have not been changed. Therefore, we have decided that we will institute high power departmental inquiry to find out the truth whether the fire broke out as a result of short circuit or it was pre-planned. The coach was packed with the Kar Sevaks. We will also conduct an inquiry as to how many were travelling with ticket and how many were travelling without ticket. Therefore, we have decided to institute a high power departmental inquiry and sought its report within a period of three months. We have decided to take action against these officers who are found guilty of dereliction of duty to distinguish true from the false. What happened there, asset amounting crores of rupees destroyed and lakhs of our brothers and sisters were killed. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MD. SALIM: Sir, in the light of this disclosure, a high-powered inquiry should be set up. ... (Interruptions) I demand from the Union Government a firm action against the Gujarat Government also for this kind of criminal offence. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I request the hon. Railway Minister to yield for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Yes, I am yielding.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Report is dated 17th of May, 2002. It means that almost three months after the tragedy took place, this Report was with the Government, with the Railway Minister. Yet, this was kept under wraps till 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, conclusion can be drawn. You need not point it out. He has mentioned the date.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: My only point is that this could not have been done without the connivance of the State Government, without the connivance of the Chief Minister, without the connivance of the Central Government, without the connivance of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and without the connivance of the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* All these matters must be investigated and all these people must be brought to book. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Government to do. You are in the Government.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am only mentioning that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Narender Modi should be sacked. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Gujarat should be dismissed.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the House that we will not get the case hush up under pressure of anybody. We would like to reveal to the country and the world who were responsible for this act, why the railway authorities remained dummy. They do not deserve to show their face, that is why they try to evade. They are aware that the time since I have assumed the charge of the Ministry of Railways, I have been talking about Godhra. Therefore, for the sake of their own honour and also to demoralize Lalu they say that Lalu is a tainted Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the Railway Budget has been given extensive support across the country.

*[English]*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, no new train was introduced in the reply.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said he will go there, and you meet him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I know that there are not personal problems of the hon. Members but the problems of the people of their constituencies. I understand their problems, Sonia ji also understand their problems and Shri Manmohan Singh also understand their problems. We will make arrangement for the funds. As the train runs smoothly in the same way we will allocate money without any hindrance for completion of the projects of their constituencies. There is nothing to worry.

*[English]*

This is not the last. Morning saw the day.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend Kunwar Manvendra Singh is elected from Mathura Parliamentary Constituency. We belong to Mathura.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Hon. Minister, special attention should be paid towards Mathura.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mathurs is our 'Gurudwara'. I definitely would like to assure Manvendra ji and would also like to say as you have also said that these irreligious people do not have faith in the religion. It is not our department, we are only the medium. There was no any photo of Vishvakarma ji in the Ministry. I said him to manage the department so that accidents could not take place otherwise it will bring disrepute to you. Tell me, what I have to do. He tell me what to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank a resident of Rampur, he belongs to minority community. Portrait of Radha-Krishna sketched by the people belonging to minority community has been gifted to me. I have also put it near the photo of Vishvakarma ji and I said that now it is your duty to observe the activities of the railway. A peon lit an aggarbati daily and I adore him respectfully. Tell me, whether accident is taking place. But, I apprehend". ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is necessary.

[Translation]

Expunge this word.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you and request the House that Demands for Grants on Account may kindly be granted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2004-2005 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on Account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*The motion was adopted.*

13.54 hrs.

### APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT NO. 2 BILL, 2004-2005\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 12. The hon. Minister will seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 4-7-2004.

the services of a part of the financial year 2004-2005 for the purpose of railways.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2004-2005 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may now move for consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2004-2005 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2004-2005 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

1356 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.*

1500 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

- (i) **Need to sanction the requisite amount to extend the Kapadvanj-Modasa broad gauge railway line in Western Railway Division to Shamlaji road.**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The extension of Kapadvanj-Modasa broad gauge railway line to Shamlaji Road will connect Udaipur-Chittorgarh with Mumbai directly by rail route, and Modasa-Kapadvanj-Anand to Delhi *via* Udaipur-Chittorgarh. The construction of 15 kilometre new railway line will open up an alternative rail route from Delhi to Chittorgarh-Udaipur to Modasa-Kapadvanj-Nadiad and to Mumbai.

The idea was accepted by the then hon. Minister of Railways in the year 2003 and he announced to survey the construction of Modasa-Shamlaji railway line and accordingly the Western Railways carried out a survey which is completed. This project falls within the Western Railways Division. The project cost is not much and falls within the discretionary powers of the hon. Minister of Railways from his own Budget.

I request the Ministry of Railways to sanction this amount so that a 15 kilometre broad gauge railway line can be laid, to open a third route from Delhi to Ahmedabad *via* Chittorgarh-Udaipur-Modasa and Nadiad-Vadodara to Mumbai, and *vice versa*.

- (ii) **Need to ensure protection and conservation of sites of historic importance in Murshidabad district, West Bengal**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): The city of Murshidabad in the State of West Bengal has been widely recognized as a historic place of heritage and composite culture. The city of Murshidabad was formerly known as the capital of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Even Lord Clive described the city of Murshidabad as being as rich and popular as London. Now the glory and sheen of Murshidabad has become the days of yore. The other place, Kamna Subarna which is also situated in the same district had found its name in the narration of Chinese Scholar Hue and Fung who had visited Kama Subarna, the Capital of King Shashanka. During the regime of Shashanka, ten thousand students studied in the University in Kama Subarna which was also known as Rakta Mritika. This place, Kamna Subarna, is believed to have been visited by Great Gautam Buddha. But now the site is in a dilapidated condition.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to restore these historical places and upkeep the artefacts in Murshidabad, Kama Subarna and Kirtaswari.

- (iii) **Need for Central assistance in tackling the problems being faced by the farming community in Andhra Pradesh.**

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, cyclone, drought and other natural calamities, un-remunerative prices for agricultural produce, non-availability of adequate and timely supply of credit, adulterated seeds and pesticides have resulted in thousands of farmers committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh. Traditional value-based, hardworking, self-respecting farmers unable to repay the loans with interest due to continuous crop failures and un-remunerative prices for their producer seeing no prospect of clearing the debt and feeling shy to show their faces either to their family members or to the society are resorting to suicides. Unless some solutions are immediately found by Central and State Governments, there is every possibility of not only substantial increase in suicides but also mass migration from rural to urban areas.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

The present Government is determined to avoid these suicides by taking several steps such as giving free power, moratorium on repayment of loans and arranging fresh loans at reduced rates of interest, supplying quality seeds and pesticides in time to farmers and Rs. 1.50 lakhs to each family of the farmer who committed suicide, immediate sanction and taking up number of minor and medium irrigation schemes, toning up the marketing facilities, allocation of large funds on irrigation and rural development.

So, it is time for Central Government to step in, identify and organise the ways to prevent these suicides.

- (iv) Need to set up the proposed centre of All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Gorakhpur, UP.**

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr Chairman, Sir, the previous Government had given approval for the setting up of six new centres of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the country for improving the health services. Out of these one centre was proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh. Gorakhpur has the highest density of population not only in Eastern Uttar Pradesh but in the country also and is the most backward area of the state from the point of view of health facilities. It is on account of this that thousands of people die due to encephalitis and liver cancer. There is only one medical college in Gorakhpur at a population of 6 crore and the Government has not paid proper attention to it. Its recognition has been cancelled thrice by the MCI. Gorakhpur is the most important city of Uttar Pradesh. Besides sharing border with Nepal, major parts of Bihar are linked with Gorakhpur.

So, I urge upon the Government to set up proposed centre of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Gorakhpur (UP).

- (v) Need to release full share of Gram Panchayat funds for enabling effective implementation of developmental works.**

[English]

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA (Davangere): Sir, the Union Government is releasing funds to the Gram Panchayats for development purposes. But this amount is being released in instalments to all Gram Panchayats. Because of this piecemeal distribution, every Gram Panchayat gets only very meagre amount. With the result, there is less or no development work. If the full amount is released to a group of Gram Panchayats in rotation, lot of developmental works can be done in that particular area.

I urge upon the Government that this suggestion may be considered and full share of a particular Gram Panchayat may be released at the earliest so that the particular area can be developed immediately.

- (vi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa for enabling early completion of the upper Indravati Multipurpose Hydro Power Project in Kalahandi district.**

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, the Upper Indravati Multipurpose Hydropower Project has the power generation capacity of 600 MW and irrigation potentiality of 1.2 lakh hectares through its three Canal Systems, namely—Left, Right, Extension and Lift Canal System. Though the Left and Right canals will be completed shortly, work on the lift-canal has not yet been started. It will irrigate the most drought-prone areas of the Kalahandi district, that is Koksara and Dharamgarh blocks. So, I request the hon. Minister and the Government to kindly grant funds from AIBP programme to expedite the project as Government of Orissa has taken initiative for completion of this canal system.

- (vii) Need to enforce regulations to prevent discharge of pollution causing effluents into the marine waters of Dakshina Kannada area of Karnataka**

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ (Udupi): Sir, fishermen community, who eke out a living along the coastal belt of Udupi adjoining New Mangalore Port area, is confronted with the problem of pollution of marine waters due to discharge of industrial effluents by a multinational chemical manufacturing plant processing hazardous and toxic chemical substances.

the biological characteristics of marine waters along the coast adjoining NMPT Panambur area have undergone a vast change because of this effluent discharge repelling marine lives (fish etc.) towards deep sea and away from shore waters. It should be made incumbent on such chemical units producing hazardous chemical substances, to provide for captive effluent treatment/disposal systems.

I would urge the Ministry of Environment and Forests to exercise a strict vigil over this issue and enforce regulations concerning setting up of captive effluent treatment/disposal systems by chemical/industrial units located along the coast of Dakshin Kannada area.

- (viii) Need to provide better facilities to railway hawkers in West Bengal**

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of more than eighty thousand railway hawkers, who are somehow



leading their livelihood in West Bengal. Most of them are either refugees uprooted due to partition during independence or jobless workers of closed down factories and unemployed youths. The present socio-economic conditions have forced thousands of workers to join this profession for sheer survival. A substantive portion of this workforce and porters are from Bihar and Orissa. For years, these poor people are demanding licence for all hawkers and porters, and benefits of treatment in Railway Hospital for the Railway contractors' labourers. On 16th June, 2004 a joint memorandum has already been submitted to the Minister for Railways and General Manager, Eastern Railway.

While congratulating the Minister for Railways for his proposal to bring this section under social security net, I also request the Government to consider their other legitimate demands.

- (ix) Need to provide compensation to displaced land owners of Rajghat Dam Project in Jhansi Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Sir, the construction of Rajghat Dam Project under my parliamentary constituency Lalitpur-Jhansi, UP has been done on the land of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. No compensation has yet been paid to the farmers whose lands were acquired and so the affected farmers are facing financial hardship. Moreover the quantity of water for irrigation from this dam has not been decided.

So, through you, I urge upon the Government to pay the rest of the compensation to the farmers whose lands were acquired for the construction under the Rajghat Project at the earliest and allocate water for irrigation from this dam to the farmers of this area.

- (x) Need to provide grants to the Government of West Bengal to undertake repair work of the damaged embankments in the Sunderbans**

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, the embankments of river in Sunderbans measuring 3,500 kilometres have been dangerously eroded, and damaged at 66 points at the beginning of the monsoon this year, resulting in damage to crops and contamination of sources of sweet water with saline water affecting South

24 Parganas and portion of North 24 Parganas district. The existence of the Royal Bengal Tigers is also at stake if no adequate measure is taken to protect the embankments in time.

In order to protect the life and property of the human population, natural forest and the living creatures of the Sunderbans, the Government of West Bengal is doing some repair work of the embankments with their limited sources, but that is much inadequate to cope with the grave situation in the area. The State Government, therefore, had urged the Central Government to sanction a sum of rupees ninety crore fourteen lakh for the construction of the embankment in the Sunderbans, but the money has not been sanctioned as yet.

It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government should come forward and sanction the money prayed by the State Government to protect the life and forest of Sunderbans.

- (xi) Need to take steps to ameliorate the condition of SCs/STs in the country**

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir. All the Central Ministries and the State Governments should formulate SCP and TSP and ensure allocation of funds in proportion to the percentage of population. Necessary mechanism should be provided to ensure that diversion of these funds do not take place and the funds are utilized according to the specific needs of these communities. Posts reserved for SCs and STs should be filled up only by candidates belonging to these communities.

A comprehensive Bill may be urgently introduced with regard to all the cases of inclusion/exclusion in Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes lists. A separate Awas Vikas Yojana should be formulated for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with an objective to cover all the houseless among them, within a period of five years. The implementation of PCR Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act, 1989 should be made more strict, and involvement of people's representatives in their implementation should be ensured. The payment of scholarship to the students belonging to SCs and STs may be made on quarterly basis and its quantum should be linked up with the price index.

I request the Government to take necessary action in this regard immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will repeat the list of names of the hon. Members whose name was listed for raising Matters under Rule 377, but were not present earlier. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav—not present; Shri Surendera Prakash Goel—not present, Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar.

**(xii) Need to reduce the customs duty applicable to the ship breaking industry**

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, the ship breaking industry is contributing significantly in terms of providing raw material for re-rolling to produce steel, mainly used for construction purposes. Ship breaking industry is presently passing through a difficult financial phase, mainly due to stiff international competition, higher rates for purchase of ships for breaking, and low price of steel scrap. The industry needs all the support from the Government for its revival.

In view of the above, I urge the Central Government to reduce the custom duty on old ships.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav—not present.

1519 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET 2004-2005—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up item number 14 of today's Revised List of Business, namely, General discussion on the Budget (General) for 2004-2005. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also got to a matter to raise under rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, but I have already taken up the next item of business of the House.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present budget is diametrically opposite to the priorities mentioned in Congress manifesto, Common Minimum Programme referred to in the Prime

Minister's address to the nation and the budget speech of Shri Chidambaram while presenting the budget. This budget is anti-poor, anti-farmers, anti-middle class and anti-workers and staffs. For small industries. *...(Interruptions)* It is detrimental to small scale industries. This budget will hamper development and will lead to price rise Shri Chidambaramji has used rhetoric to present unpalatable budget. He has tried to give impression that it is the budget of common people. He has, through grandiloquence tried to give an impression that this budget is the budget of the common people, farmers and village people.

Sir, once the budget was presented in the House, it had been emphatically repropagated on all the TV Channels, newspapers and by corporate world that the present budget is probably the budget that favours village people and the farmers. First of all I would like to present the rural budget and the farmer's budget. In the Budget for 2003-2004 Rs. 13,238 crore were allocated for the rural development while in the budget for the next year Rs. 9239 crore have been allocated for the said purpose. Thus Rs. 4000 crore have been reduced in the rural budget. While on the one hand Rs. 4000 crore have been curtailed in the rural budget and on the other hand it is being propagated that the Government is preparing budget for rural people and the farmers. If rural development department is excluded then the budget is meant exclusively for the Ministry that comes under Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji. Last time Rs. 19200 crore were spent and this time Rs. 15,998 crore have been proposed, that means Rs. 3,200 crore have been reduced. This includes the projects for drinking water and irrigation schemes. This is the budget meant for rural and farmers being prepared by way of reducing Rs. 4000 crore from the rural projects and Rs. 3200 crore from the overall budget.

Sir, many questions are being raised, suicides are being committed all over the country. Maximum number of suicides of farmers are being reported from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka Maharashtra and Kerala. In all these four states the Congress party is in power. The incidents of suicides have increased after 15th of May. So many suicides were committed after 15th of May in these places. I would like to know as to what solutions has been found. The Prime Minister did visit only one place. Several people are telling that he went there probably because he wants to contest from that area. He announced to pay Rs. 50,000. What steps did he take to check the incidents of suicide there. Sir, why are farmers committing suicides? They are doing so because they are not able to pay the

loans that they had availed. The interest on the loan has increased to the extent that they are not capable of repaying it, so they are committing suicide. After 15th of May 2004 incidents of suicide have been reported from Andhra Pradesh alone. I would like to know as to what did hon. Chidambaramji do for those farmers in the budget. Did he make provision to wave off their loans?

Sir, I know that the Congress President in her road show had highlighted the incidents of suicide in Andhra Pradesh and assured that if her party comes in power they would waive off loans and the interest on it. All such promises were made at that time but not a single paisa of loan and interest have been waived off in the present Budget. There is no mention anywhere in the budget regarding waiving off of loans and interest. Similarly they have neither increased the price of agricultural products nor have reduced interest. Sir, NDA Government had reduced interest rate from 14 percent to 9 percent. Shri Jaswant Singh in his interim budget speech had stated that they would further reduce it to seven percent from nine percent. He had assured for seven percent but the present Government did not make any reduction in interest. The previous Government had brought it to nine percent from 14 percent but the present Government have maintained it to nine percent loan and interest have not been waived off and no reduction has been made in the interest rate which was promised and prices of the agricultural products have not been increased. Who is responsible for the suicides committed by the farmers? If your Government after coming to power had taken prompt steps like the waiving off the loans or interest, and the marginal farmers would have given such relief, the suicides could have been checked. However the incidents of suicides have been increasing and more suicides are likely to take place. I would like to say that the UPA Government will be held responsible for not taking such measures and the stigma of these incidents would be on the UPA Government.

Much have been said here regarding the employment. It was said that we would give employment to everyone. You had promised that the employment of 100 days would be provided to at least one person from each family in rural areas. You have mentioned this promise in the manifesto and in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. I want to ask whether any budgetary provision in this regard has been made? Providing 100 day's employment annually to one person per family would require an amount of seven lakh crore rupees. The budgetary provision made in this regard by the Government is merely an assurance of bringing a bill

setting up a commission in regard thereto. I would like to know whether the setting up of a commission and introducing a Bill would provide employment? It requires an amount of seven lakh crore rupees over a period of five years and an amount of at least one lakh crores annually for giving employment to everyone. I would like to ask whether even a single paise increase has taken place in the budgetary allocation under this head vis-à-vis the previous year?

A total allocation of additional ten thousand crore rupees has been made in the plan. They claim that UPA Government would bring a radical change in all spheres including agriculture education, health etc. and would take pro poor measures. But only a meagre amount of ten thousand crore has been allocated under all these heads. Four thousand crore of this money would go to states and the remaining 6 thousand crore would be with left the central Government which would be used to implement all these schemes. Not a single pie increase has been done in the budgetary allocation as far providing and creating employment is concerned even though it requires an amount of seven lakh crore rupees. This means that are not true to your promise and you had given merely an oral assurance in this regard. NDA Government had disbursed credit cards to four crore farmers. Your report also mentions that credit worth several lakh crore had been made. Is there any difference between the announcement made by the previous Government and that made by you? You have stated that you would double the credit and the same was promised by us. Even that credit increase to double would not be done in real terms by making budgetary allocation therefore but you would pass that burden to NABARD and other banks.

This Government has nipped the Jaiprakash Narayan/ Credit scheme worth 50 thousand crore rupees in its bud that was launched during the regime of NDA Government.

50 thousand rupees are proposed to be allocated per unit for rural housing in which the grant component would be of 25 thousand and the budgetary allocation under this head is only 500 crore rupees and that too is included in the six thousand crore rupees. At the rate of 50 thousand rupees per person would make it possible the construction of one lakh dwelling units in the budgetary allocation of 50 thousand crore rupees. There are 10 crore homeless people in rural areas and you had promised to provide housing to them but the budgetary allocation is adequate for providing housing to only one lakh persons. NDA Government had formulated a scheme of constructing one crore houses in rural areas annually

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and the scheme was being implemented during our regime while you are talking of constructing one lakh houses only.

They have said that water bodies would be created throughout the country. I would like to know as to what budgetary provisions have been made for it? Only five pilot projects in five districts in the entire country have been proposed to be launched. From where the funds would be provided for those pilot projects. All schemes are being changed and funds meant for them would be diverted. There is a provision of rupees 20 thousand in this budget for digging a canal. I would like to know whether it is possible to dig a canal for rupees 20 thousand only now-a-days. Is it possible to dig a pond, or canal for only twenty thousand rupees at 100 places. People of rural areas have been deceived. Plan allocation was cut down by 40 percent and similar cut down in other schemes has also taken place. The people in rural areas have neither employment nor any other source. Only tractors have been exempted from excise duty and the Government claims that it has taken off all the burden from them. I want to ask as to whether every farmer uses tractor? The Government have made the iron, diesel and edible oil costlier, have increased the service tax, imposed cess on services. Doesn't all these things affect the common man in rural areas? Doesn't it bring all so called benefits back to square one? What kind of a rural budget is this? This budget is being hailed as a rural budget as they didn't touch the corporate sector at all and it is the corporate world that is launching this propaganda that it is a pro-poor and rural budget.

Chidambaram has mentioned about Rajiv Gandhi drinking water scheme very subtly and sweetly and also mentioned about the merger of other major schemes in this sector into Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Scheme. Earlier there was one scheme named after Shri Deendayal Upadhyay and another named after Dr. Mukherjee. Whether all these schemes would be scrapped and only those named after Rajiv Gandhi will continue? Will the name of a single family dominate this country? Will the name of other legends and great persons be obliterated? It is a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Why are you referring to one family?

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to know as to whether any Congress leader would ever formulate any scheme in the name of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Sekhar Azad or Subhash Bose? We don't impact it from them and we know that no such scheme named after those martyrs would be formulated. However it is not right to change the names of existing schemes. The Government has changed the Governors, transferred the officers. This way only committed judiciary, bureaucracy and Governors are being promoted and only one family name is being highlighted. There cannot be more shameful thing than this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Malhotraji, do you need water or name? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We also want good name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Why do you remember the name of Ravindranath Tagore? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a question of name, if it becomes a precedent then every time a new Government comes, the name of everything including Indira Gandhi Airport and other memorials would be changed? What message do they want to convey to the country? Whenever there a Government comes to power, all the things be named after one family. It is very dangerous mentality and perverted trend and it needs to be changed.

Second thing is that he has indulged in a lot of rhetorics about Sarvasiksha and claimed that every person in India would be made literate. A lot is needed to be done for Children's education they are to be provided mid-day meal and all other facilities are to be given to them. Hence he has imposed 2 percent education cess on all the taxes in the entire country to educate and feed all. Chidambaramji has stated that levying of the cess would mobilise approximately 5 thousand crore rupees. Supposing that four to five thousand crore rupees are mobilised, I would like to know as to where that money would be spent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Chidambaramji is sitting here and I would like to ask him that he has certainly imposed new surcharge in the budget but has failed to mention where will that be spent? During the last year Rs. 5400 crore were spent and this year the funds proposed to be

allocated are Rs. 6 thousand crores i.e. this year an increase of 600 crore in allocation has been made. I want to ask to where the remaining amount of Rs. 4 thousand crores collected by imposing the education cess would be spent. Why didn't you show that among in expenditure under the relevant head. The entire budgetary allocation of HRD was 9,625 crore rupees and now it is 10,625 crore rupees i.e. an increase of 1,000 crore rupees over previous years. Rs. 600 crores have been increased under the head of elementary education to make it Rs. 6000 crores from previous year's Rs. 5400 crores. The allocation of Rs. 6000 crores from previous year's Rs. 5400 crores. The allocation of Rs. 6000 crores elementary education is included in the total allocation of HRD and Rs. 5400 crore have been left out. The revenue earnings should have also been accompanied by budgetary allocation in equal proportion. All that is included in the additional of Rs. 10,000 crores Education cess would be imposed on all the taxes and duties like income tax, corporate tax, custom and excise duty etc. I would like to know as to where this money proposed to be mobilised through education cess to the tune of 4000-5000 crore has been spent and whether it has been shown under any head of the budget? Revenue is being generated through it but no expenditure (allocation) has been shown against it. If you propose to show it in expenditure later on then it would have been shown by increased deficit at that point of time but not even deficit has been shown anywhere in regard to the earning through cess. Education cess is meant to be spent for the purpose of education but why it has not been shown anywhere?

It is stated in the Common Minimum Programme that 6 percent of the GDP would be spent on education and it comes around two lakh crore rupees. The total GDP is still debatable but it is likely to be around 30-31 lakh crore rupees. Deliberately, no mention has been made of next year's estimated GDP. If it works out to 6 percent, then in total it would be Rs. 2 lakh crores. And total expenditure vis-a-vis GDP is Rs. 10,000 crores. It will be spent on education in place of two lakh crore. If it is spread over six years, then this years at 6 percent it should be Rs. 2 lakh crore. Six percent is for each year. It is not that 6 percent in 5 years. Why do they formulate such Common Minimum Programme? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Please verify the facts. Perhaps, there is some mistake in reference. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He can do so when he speaks. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: These days it is 3.9 percent on education. He himself is telling it is 4000-5000.

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am talking of GDP. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Kindly verify that. Secondly, it has nowhere been said that 6 percent will be spent this year. This is the target ultimately to be achieved.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I say spend one percent, not 6 percent, but not make it one twentieth ...*(Interruptions)*. He may make it 0.8 percent in place of 6 percent. Why should you write it in the CMP? Why do they mention such things in CMP and deceive the country by saying that they will spend 6 percent. Let them do it happily, even one percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When Joshi ji was telling here, was he also deceiving us? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Two percent cess is imposed on entire tax amount. Estimated revenue earning by tax has been assessed as Rs. 3,17,733 crore and its two percent comes to around Rs. 6,000 crore. It is two percent of total revenue receipts and do not mix it up with GDP. They have quoted GDP in their CMP in this regard.

While presenting the Budget, Shri Chidambaram said that he has two types of news—one is good and other one is bad. He said, should I read out the good news first. In that he said that now onwards, those with income of Rs. One lakh will not have to pay tax. Straightway I got up and asked, are you increasing the exemption limit? Smilingly, he prevaricated my query. But by evening, the news of increase in exemption limit in Income tax spread like wildfire throughout the country. TV Channels were interviewing the people at various places to know their reaction. A person with three lakh income was jubilant by thinking that by hiking the limit he would save Rs. 9,000. People distributed even sweets. All categories of people were thinking that they will be benefited. Some brought series and others something else. By in the night it became quite clear that it was merely jugglery of words. A person with Rs. One lakh and one will have to pay Rs. 180 upto Rs. 9000 which means he will have to pay

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total Rs. 9180. Everyone will have to pay two percent extra. How many employees is less than Rs. 1 lakh in Delhi? Chidambaramji please tell what is the pay of a primary-teacher? In Delhi—it is above Rs. One lakh and 50 thousand. Income of 90 percent of the Group IV employees is above Rs. 1,50,000/- If we deduct standard deduction, still it comes above Rs. One lakh. And he has increased 2 percent cess on that. A good news was spread throughout the nation that exemption limit been increased to Rs. One lakh. I want to ask him. Has any Finance Minister taken such a decision during last 57 years and increased exemption limit. Earlier, it used to be Rs. 10-15, 16 thousand, then it was increased to 50 thousand. He has not increased, he limit. ...*(Interruptions)* He should have announced that the has not increased the limit. He should have increased limit of standard deduction or something else, otherwise he should have told it directly that—exemption limit upto Rs. 50,000 standard deduction Rs. 30,000 and investment in small savings Rs. 20,000. No one was paying any tax earlier also upto Rs. One lakh. Then what was the need of saying so and that they will have to file the returns also. Earlier they used to file returns and now also they will have to do—so who's benefit it would be? Any businessman who was paying tax for name-sake only, say Rs. 50 or 100 or 200, he is filing tax returns. Now, except him, who else will get benefit? Most surprising fact is that Finance Minister has brought one crore forty lakh people out of tax net. In total, there were four or three crore tax payers. Now, since, one crore and forty lakh tax-payers have been exempted, no tax-rates have been increased, then total tax collection should come downs. Rates of income tax have not been increased. Imposition of cess or service tax is separate. Then how tax collection will increase by 24 percent? How have you shown it? Rs. 40,629 crore have been collected by April in the current year, it would be Rs. 50,929 crore i.e. Rs. 10,660 crore more or say 24.7 percent, whereas one crore and forty lakh tax payers have been exempted. Then, how tax collection will increase? And service tax is separate. Calculation of cess is also not included in it. 24 percent increase in total tax collection will not be possible even if GDP increases by 14 or 15 percent, whereas increase in GDP is just 7 percent. And above all, after bringing one crore forty lakh tax payers out of tax net. Chidambaramji, how have you calculated an increase of 24 percent in tax and 40 percent in income tax. I think many times, why did he write that the increase would be 24.4 percent, if he would have written 40 percent, nobody would have asked him anything? How collection will increase by Rs. 10,000 crore. One crore

forty lakh people have been brought out of tax-net, how income tax will increase by 24.4 percent and corporate-tax by 40 percent. Then how he has calculated it? It is that how good a politician or statesman is he who manipulates the figures and makes the people to believe as if it is actual. And if it does not happen so, later on he brings out some reasons. As I have told earlier that it is the jugglery of the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talks please.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Chidambaramji has taken great care of common man. He is telling that he has granted them great relief. Four schemes were in vogue under small savings, wherein poor or middle-class people used to invest. Reserve Banks used to issue bonds at 6.5 percent tax free interest. Employees of PSUs used to buy these bonds on retirement. Second one was of 1999, wherein Central Government employees used to invest on retirement. And third scheme was Senior Citizens' Pension Scheme. All these four schemes have been withdrawn in current budget. At present, no such scheme is in vogue wherein a poor person or a common-man can invest money. Will he put his money in Bank and earn 5 percent interest, too, taxable one. He has withdrawn all the four schemes, on other hand he is telling that their Government is acting in common-man's interest. They formulated CMP which means minimize the common-man. They used to say, 'Congress ka haath, garib ke saath'. Now they are kicking the poors. Since pension scheme for aged people has been withdrawn, where a common-man will invest now? It was assured income scheme paying 9 percent interest. A senior citizen, about 55 years of age, used to invest money in it. Now, he has no other scheme to invest. Hon. Finance Minister says that he would introduce a scheme in August. No one knows what type of a scheme it will be, when it will be opened. they are telling it will be for five years.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): By then, they will be out.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to know which way common man has been benefited? As no relief has been given in income tax, small saving schemes have been withdrawn. Besides, two percent cess, known as education cess and a service tax has been imposed and more services have been included in it. 85 items have been excluded from Small Scale Industries.

Common Minimum Programme was much talked about. Our Communist friends were telling that interest rates for Provident Fund will be increased from 8 to 12 percent. All met with the Prime Minister, who assured that he is considering it. It was talked about that rate of interest on PF will be increased to 12 percent. People were optimistic that, if not 12 percent, it would surely be 11 percent. They had high hopes. But, finally it was decided in the budget to keep the interest rate on Provident fund at 8 percent. EPF's decision is also likely to come within a day or two. We gave 9.5 percent interest on EPF.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Budh Dev Bhattacharya said that the Government will act on our dictates and it fully depends upon us. But what happened to their promise of increasing rate of interest on PF to 12 percent? Why this drama is going on daily? They are telling that they will not permit hike in FDI limit and if the Government resorts to it, they will oppose it. We will never agree for below 12 percent interest rate. But rate of interest remains same. It has been reduced from 12 to 8 percent and for EPF also, it will be reduced similarly. I want to know what relief he has given to a common man.

Earlier, I have told that the Budget will bring inflation. And how it is increasing—I will tell it. The prices of two basic commodities—steel and diesel have been increased. Price of petrol and gas was increased earlier.  
...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Was it not increased during his time? ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Excise duty on iron has been increased from 8 to 12 percent.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): First read the Budget and then say something.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: As he can not listen to the truth, the people have made him to sit that side.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. It will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): They will come this side after six months.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talks, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Not only the price of diesel and steel have been increased, service-tax also, that too by 25 percent, has been increased and many a new items have been included in it. Cable operators have increased their rates from today itself, and others will follow suit. Tent-owners, even laundry owners have increased the rates. It means they have increased the price of everything. If 25 percent service tax has been imposed, it would certainly lead to inflation. If steel and diesel become dear, all other items will naturally follow suit. It has taken a serious turn, now it is 6.1 percent, and it is likely to touch 6.5 percent soon. It was 3 percent in 2002-03 and 4.5 percent in April, 2003-2004. But, no sooner they came to power, it crossed 6 percent. And it will go upto 9-10 percent. Rate of increase in population is 3 percent and if inflation increases at the rate of 10 percent, then what will happen to their plans and projects, everything will go haywire. The collection target of Rs. 10,000 crore more will not be able to be achieved. So high inflation will perturb the public. Imposition of cess and service tax will boost inflation. Service Tax has been increased by 25 percent. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious issue and the budget is anti-people and anti-development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during NDA's regime in 2003-2004, debt Service was Rs. 3 lakh, 91 thousand and 614 crore. Next year, he will reduce it by Rs. 63,734 crore. If debt service is reduced by 63 thousand, will it not increase our borrowings? Entire fiscal deficit will come from borrowing. Previous debt payment will be deferred and they will cover up fiscal deficit of Rs. 1 lakh, 34 thousand and 407 crore from borrowings. Will it put us in debt trap? Are we not dragging the country into debt trap. Our Government left foreign exchange of \$ 120 Billion. Why it is not refunded before time? If it is refunded, the debt-burden will ease and if we repay Rs. 63734 crore less our debt burden will keep on increasing. It is a very serious matter and it will put the whole nation in difficulty.

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Mr. Chairman, Sir, the content of this budget speech is not the same that hon. Chidambaramji had told in his speech. I have carefully went through his speech. First he said that new Government have come in power and this mandate is for the new Government. Thereafter, he said that the mandate was for Sonia Gandhi Ji. However these expressions are so where in the budget speech that he had read in the House. What was the need of this much sycophancy. There is one more Minister. I would not like to mention his name, because we have boycotted him. He said that who so ever comes in the House he or she should first wish her and should also wish her while leaving the House.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Shri Malhotra is making good points and I am noting them. Why does he diverting from his points? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record, why are you speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you yielding?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member was telling that in America ex-Minister of Defence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)\**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget that has been presented by Shri Chidambaram, the Minister of Finance has separate heads. He has told that there will be expenditure on the Cabinet and so there will be saving on salaries. I would like to tell him that there is provision of separate funds for PMO in the budget. It is for the first time in 57 years of history that the budget of National Advisory Council has been attached with the budget for PMO. The Prime

Minister is, not the head of the Council, rather Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is its head and it has no relation with the Prime Minister office but the budget of National Advisory Council has been included in the budget for Prime Minister Office. I would like to submit that it is nothing but sycophancy. What is the role of a Prime Minister in the National Advisory Council. But the expenses amounting to two and half to three crore rupees incurring on it has been transferred to the Prime Minister office head. The Prime Minister cannot participate in the meeting of the National Advisory Council and is not its member or can chair the meeting. So, there is no justification transferring the expenses of National Advisory Council to the expenses of the Prime Minister's Office. They would have created a separate head for that, they would have attached a separate chapter in this regard but what is the meaning of attaching it with the PMO fund. The message that the Government want to give is that Soniaji is super Prime Minister and the efforts are being made by the Government to belittle the Prime Minister. The Government want to show that the Prime Minister is a puppet Prime Minister and there is no importance of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to raise other issue. Shri Shivraj Patil has told that he want to issue identity cards to the people of the country and prepare a national citizen register. It is commendable thing because two and half to three crore people have infiltrated into India from Bangladesh. They should be stopped. I have read one of his statement which is commendable. He had remarked that they are coming here for jobs. There is nothing to worry. But I would like to submit that it is changing the demographic profile and population ratio of the country. The Chief Minister of West Bengal told that the State border is not secured and the population ratio in the State are changing. It is a very grave situation but there is no provision of funds in the budget for this. It has not been clarified in the budget that from where will the funds be provided as there is no any provision and how the national citizen register will be maintained. It is essential to check this so that people from Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh may not visit India and get settled here and their number may grow to crores. So there should be a national citizen register.

16.00 hrs.

Benami transaction will be checked, however there is no provision of funds for this. ...*(Interruptions)*



*[English]*

There is not a single penny. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Why did you not introduce it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We had started it. When the Government have made this announcement then funds should also be provided. There should be provision of funds for controlling terrorism. They may abolish Golden Quadrilateral Scheme or the name of the Prime Minister may be removed from the scheme but funds must be provided for road projects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we were not present here. Lalu Ji has present Railway Budget in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* I mentioned his name by mistake. ...*(Interruptions)* How much amount will be provided from the General Budget for railway deficit and for meeting the expenditure of on going projects? ...*(Interruptions)* There is heavy expenditure shown in Budget but source of revenue is absent. Funds to be received from General Budget have not been provided. Accidents and dacoities are taking place in Railways, but no safety measures are being taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Where is their attention? We were not present here 68 persons were killed in Godhara. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: 68 persons were burnt alive in Godhara. Women men and Children were burnt alive. An Inquiry Commission was set up which is conducting inquiry regarding the incident. After that here. ...*(Interruptions)* Can there be anything more serious than this? The person who died there were Hindus. ...*(Interruptions)* There has been no sympathy for there.

\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotraji you are speaking good but please speak on budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, they are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

We will not allow any one to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speech of none of the Members will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is no provision of funds for tackling terrorism. The Government want to set up departmental inquiry to save those terrorists who burnt alive the people in railway boggies. ...*(Interruptions)* Those who were nabbed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please do not react. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Malhotra is competent enough to handle it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling that there is no provision of funds in the entire budget to tackle terrorism. POTA imposed against terrorist is being withdrawn. The cases are going on against those who burnt people alive in train in Godhara

\*Not recorded.

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but departmental inquiry is being ordered to protect the guilty persons as those who were killed were Hindus. ...*(Interruptions)* Some of the persons involved in Godhara incident were Pakistani agents. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Malhotra, I have great respect for you. Why are you unnecessarily raising issues? Please talk about the Budget. Why are you raising issues? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He named former Prime Minister and former Deputy Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that allocation of funds to eliminate terrorism should have been made in this budget, funds should also have been allocated to rehabilitate 5 lakh displaced Kashmiri pandits in Kashmir but those are not there. Provision for funds to strengthen internal security has not been made. Thus, the presented budget is anti-poor, anti-worker, anti-farmer, anti-middle class, anti-development and dearness increasing budget. This is a mischief with the country and the UPA Programme as well. Therefore, I conclude opposing the budget.

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a born critic. I belong to the Congress Party in an unquestionable way. But at the same time, I am not of the kind to criticise somebody just because he belongs to Opposition or admire and flatter somebody just because he belongs to my Party.

I heard the Budget speech of Shri P. Chidambaram on the day when he presented it. Once again I went through the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. I felt extremely happy to hear his intentions on the day he mentioned all these points in his Budget speech. I felt that this is the best Budget. More particularly for the people who are living in the villages who are 75 per cent of the population, the poor and the lower middle class. He has done this without affecting the development of the country or demotivating the investors in investing further in industry or in services or things of that kind.

Naturally, when I was asked to speak on this Budget, I went through the Budget presented by Shri Jaswant Singh last year. Before BJP came into power along with its allies, while sitting in Opposition benches, they used to speak about ethics, values, morals, corruption and what is wrong in the then ruling party, that is Congress, which was in power right from Independence for quite some time. They were also in power, though not independently, along with the support of many other parties, which were their pre-poll allies. We have seen their rule in the last six years. I was feeling sorry when my friend Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was speaking on the Budget. Possibly, the nature is only to criticise the Government in power, no matter what they did earlier when they were in power. They do not keep in their mind what they did when they were in power, what right, what ethics and what morals they have for criticising the Government now in position. I can understand it. As an Opposition, it is the duty of the Opposition to find fault with the Government in power if it were to go on the wrong side.

This Government now has come into power only two months back which he made clear. He also said that we have been following whatever was provided by the earlier Government till such time we finalise the Finance Bill and take a decision. Everybody can think, even the people can think on these lines. Can they have any chance or opportunity to criticise this Government for these two months? If something were to go wrong, it is because of the consequences of the rule for the last six years. They can find fault with this Government maybe in the next Budget, in the second Budget or the third Budget. But now, I am really surprised to find this criticism. They are supposed to be enlightened, educated and great citizens. But then when it comes to the question of criticism, there is absolutely no change. It is only because they have to criticise, they criticise the Government. I do not think that they are themselves convinced that their criticism is genuine.

I will now go through the points one by one because I have gone through the earlier Budget Speech of Shri Jaswant Singh and the Budget Speech made by Shri Chidambaram now. When it comes to the question of making a Budget Speech, every Finance Minister and every Government likes to impress on the entire masses of the country. The Government does not want to alienate, not only the poor, the middle-class, the lower middle-class but also even the rich industrialists also because the total intention of every party is only that of getting votes, coming to power and nothing else. No party in this country is of the opinion—irrespective of the fact that

whether it comes into the Government next time or not—that it should do its duty with total commitment and dedication. So, unfortunately, this is going on for quite some time. I would show you the difference as to how Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra went on in his criticism.

In the Budget Speech made by Shri Chidambaram, he said that he has seven clear economic objectives. He said about maintaining a growth rate of 7-8 per cent per year for a sustained period. They cannot criticise this unless they see that it has not been achieved at the end of the year. They do not have any subject to criticise. They only imagine things and then criticise but not based on the factual terms. The second objective is that of providing universal access to quality basic education and health. This is what he has proposed.

I read the Budget Speech made by Shri Jaswant Singh in the year 2003-04. He talked of five priorities. One of the priorities is poverty eradication. They cannot, even if they want, eliminate this world because poverty is there in a big way in this country. So, they cannot displease the poor people. So, in a big way, poverty eradication was mentioned addressing the life-time concern of the people. They are very much interested in our citizens. What were they covering? They were covering health, housing, education and employment. All these five are extremely very important to every citizen in this country. Nobody can question those things—neither we nor they. But then what had they done? What were their intentions? Basically, the Finance Minister, who is in the Government and the Government as well must have some conviction some thought-process in favour of the poor and the under-privileged. That is the first part of it.

The second part of it is the commitment to the implementation of the policies which he has mentioned. So, the second part will be done later. Let me go through the intentions, the thought-process first.

Now, when they talked of poverty eradication, health, education etc., do you know what they have provided for improving the educational situation in this country? Do you know how they have improved the educational situation in this country? they said that education is the central vein of our life time concerns. We also agree with it, we do not disagree with it. But what have they done to improve the education in this country? What they have done in their Budget—their Budget, not our Budget—is they have given an exemption of Rs. 12,000 per child for two children which comes to Rs. 24,000. For whom have they given this exemption? Who can get

this benefit of exemption? A tax payer can only get this exemption. Who is a tax payer? He is a moneyed man. Then what happens to the poor man? Have they ever thought of a poor man in this country? If they were to think in terms of helping the education of children of poor people who are underprivileged for generations, how can they give the advantage of Rs. 12,000 exemption for tax payers? Does it go to the poor people in our country? What is their thinking? This means, they think that by giving an exemption of Rs. 12,000 per child for two children in a family, they are doing an excellent service to this country in improving the education. What is the education that they are talking of? It is 'universal education', not one man's education, not one group's education, but 'universal education'. These are excellent words, very sweet, but not real. My friend says that this is excellent. I am not the person to judge this. Let the countrymen judge, they are hearing it. They think that the declaration of exemption of education expenses from income tax up to Rs. 12,000 per child for two children will help 'universal education' in this country!

Sir, what are the other things that they have done? They have exempted the authors from tax. Who are the authors? Are they poor people in the villages? No; they are also rich people. They have given exemption to the authors who are getting royalty amounting to lakhs of rupees and they have given exemption of royalty up to Rs. Eight lakh from tax. So, they are encouraging 'universal education' in this country by giving exemption to the authors whose royalty may run into crores of rupees of also sometimes.

Then, they have given exemption from tax for royalty received from patents. Mr. Chairman, can a poor man from your village in a tribal area, where you are elected from, think of patent? Does he get the benefit by this exemption from tax? Maybe, these days, some tribe in your constituency is good enough to cure a disease with a neem product, but he does not know what is patent. In the meantime, great people from America or other Western countries will come to your tribal village, see what your tribe is doing and they will say that they have created a patent. The next day, the local tribe is deprived of even that. So, by these measures they say that they are improving 'universal education'.

Sir, what has our Finance Minister done? He says, he is levying a two per cent cess on tax payers, not on non-tax payers, and also on duties and thereby intends to collect Rs. 5,000 crore. What does he want to use this money for? He wants to use this money to ensure

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that those boys from poor families, who have no alternative sometimes but to leave the school and go for work in a critical situation to help their families, get proper education.

Sir, we are aware that there are some families in our villages who think that by employing their children of 10 years age on some work so that they will get Rs. 50 a day and that is better than their children going to the school. So, our Finance Minister, having noticed this problem in the villages, particularly with the poorer sections of the society, declared that this amount of Rs. 5,000 crore would be charged to the poor which he mentioned specifically in this Budget speech.

Charging this money to the poor will enable them to study at least for eight years. There also he encouraged and filled the gap by providing mid-day meal scheme. Now, some of the states are following this mid-day meal scheme and the Government of India itself has come forward to provide a mid-day meal to a poor student.

Naturally when they are getting good nutritious meal in the school, the students will be interested in coming to the schools. Not only they are forced, but they are also attracted to come to the schools and study. Having studied for eight years and having been getting other privileges of free education, naturally within a span of eight years the student will be tuned, attracted and impressed that this is the way for any poor man to come up in his life with the help of education. By sweating, by hardworking from morning till evening, he may earn Rs. 100. But how many families have come up in life in the last thousands of years by only sweating? Could they purchase five acres or at least one acre of land in rural villages? How many tribals have purchased land having worked for so many hours? See the difference between what is provided by the present Finance Minister and what was provided by their Finance Minister.

The second aspect is, they said that they were interested in developing games and sports-in the education part only. The former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had spent Rs. 100 crore on Afro-Asian Games. He had spent a couple of crores on advertisement only. When I went to a remote village, I saw a big board showing the advertisement of Afro-Asian Games. What does a poor man in a village know about Afro-Asian games? They said they were encouraging education by providing money for sports, for games, for authors, for patents and giving exemptions in income tax. Is this the way they wanted universal education? And now, they are criticising this Government.

The other aspect is health. Everyone of us agree that today health is very important and that it is not in the reach of the common man. Neither we differ on it nor they differ. We are all one in that. There is no difference of opinion on that. How can we bring in health care within the reach of the common man? They had got noble methods. I will read out a portion of the Budget 2003-04 as to how they wanted to bring in health care within the reach of the common man. I am not going to the Budgets of previous five years as they presented six budgets because you will object to it, due to shortage of time, if I go on telling about their last budgets.

They had got three objectives for enhanced national health. How were they enhancing the national health? I read, 'to promote India as a global health destination', and not to bring in health to the reach of common man. They were going to improve the health of this country by making this country as a global centre of health care so that Americans can get their health care here at a very cheap rate and not our villagers. Secondly, to enable easier access to health facilities to distant places how were they going to bring five-star hospitals or any other hospital within the reach of the common man? It is just a sentence. What is the action that they had taken towards bringing in the health care to the reach of the common man? They had provided incentives to private hospitals of 100-beds and more. Would the person, who started a hospital of 200-bed, reduce the rates for the poor man? Because he gave an incentive, is he going to say that 25 per cent, 30 per cent or 40 per cent of the poor will be treated free? Have they enforced it? No. So, they are giving a benefit to a hospital owner and not to the villagers. They said novel things like 40 per cent depreciation for life saving equipment. Who gets this depreciation benefit? Hospital owners or the manufacturers of the equipment get the benefit and the poor man does not get it.

The third method he said is reduction of customs duty on life-saving equipment and drugs. Can a poor man ever think in terms of getting drug from America? Does he know which are the duties being levied on drugs imported from America, England or Germany? The richest man in the town can think in terms of importing the drug or equipment—dialysis equipment or some other equipment—from those countries and get the benefit of reduced customs duty. Are these the ways to bring health care to the reach of the common man? He spoke so well. You and I will also appreciate it. Then, have they gone through these points?

Now, I come to health insurance. They have said wonderful things about health insurance. It is true. If health insurance can be universalized or can be brought within the purview of the common man, then it is enough. He can go by paying small amount and can be treated by even a good hospital. They said they wanted to encourage universal health insurance scheme. You know, Sir, how many people are insured till today. About 11,000 people in the country have funded crores of rupees. People below poverty line are insured under the health insurance schemes which they brought under the universal health scheme. In the health insurance scheme they fixed a premium of Rs. 365 per annum for an individual. My Finance Minister, while doing this health insurance, has reduced the premium by half. Sir, Rs. 365 is reduced to Rs. 160. Now the revised premium would be Rs. 165 for individuals, Rs. 248 for a family of five, that means one day wage will come to Rs. 80. Apart from that, they said 50 lakh, people below poverty line will be covered before April of this year. Instead of 50 lakh it is only 11,000. If they were to have real commitment and dedication to serve the poor men, to bring the health care under their reach they could have given extensive publicity in the villages. We are now subsidising. You please do this. Suppose the premium is Rs. 165 or Rs. 30, the amount is Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 1 lakh for the treatment what will happen? No village or people supported it. If that had been the premium, they cannot afford. This is the way how they wanted to eradicate poverty.

Then, they said about housing. He spoke about housing. He asked: "Where is the money? How do you get the money? How do you provide housing to the people?" Sir, you know what did they provide for housing. What they have provided to encourage housing is giving incentives for slum upgradation. Is this the way of improving housing in this country by giving incentives for slum upgradation, sewerage, green field and giving exemption in interest up to Rs. 1,50,000 for the salaries people? Who are the people who can construct the house with Rs. 5 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh and who can take the exemption in interest benefit of Rs. 1,50,000 in their income tax? Are they poor people in this country? have they ever thought about a poor man? Can a poor man afford to take advantage of the interest exemption of Rs. 1,50,000? Who are the people going in for slum upgradation? Once again, a real estate man would come forward, take the land at whatever he likes. Is this the promotion of housing in this country? Do they believe in this? If they believe in this, then we can understand what type of thinking they have about eradication of poverty.

What did the present Finance Minister say? He said: "*Indira Awas Yojana* (IAY) has been the main instrument to provide housing to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as to the non-SC/ST rural poor." He never spoke about the rich man who purchases houses in the urban area, in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and all other places. He spoke about houses to be built in villages under the *Indira Awas Yojana*. It is for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes as well as to the non-SC/ST rural poor. Let them hear or let them criticise. We do not mind that. While they think about the real estate people and they think by that they are advancing the cause of housing, the present Finance Minister thinks in terms of the rural poor, SCs and STs and also providing loan and subsidy. You please compare it.

Then, they said about employment in regard to poverty eradication. Of course, they make so much uproar in the House and say, "What did the Congress Government do?" They said that they would provide employment. Now, what do they think about employment? I will read out as to what do they think about employment? They are increasing employment by providing an increase in standard deduction to 40 per cent of the salary, they are creating employment. For whom? It is for those who are employed. A person who is already employed gets the benefit of 40 per of his salary as standard deduction. They increased the limit from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000. By this method are they increasing employment in this country? They have said that they are providing LTC and they also wanted the retired people to live with dignity. Who are these retired people? They are the retired people who had drawn Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 10,00,000 per year as salary. But what happened to the poor man who work in a village from the age of ten up to the age of 70? There are hundreds of poor people with 70 years age sitting in the Harijan colonies, losing their eyesight and whose children are not in a position to feed their parents.

They are not able to look after their parents because it is a problem for the poor people who are also unemployed. They are not in a position to feed and look after their parents. They become orphans in the villages. Nobody thinks about them. They do not think about those people. They want these people who are in service and retired, to live in dignity. So, they want to provide a better exemption limit up to Rs. 1.83 lakh. It is not that, I am against providing this exemption to the retired people whom they want to live in dignity. I also want them to live in dignity. But which is the priority? Where is the selection of priority? This is how they think about

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employment. This is all what they have written. This is not my writing. I am talking about whatever they have written. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): What have you provided now?

SHRI K.S. RAO: We have proposed 100 days employment for each family. My friend, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, while speaking, had asked how could the Finance Minister provide seven-and-a-half lakh crore of rupees for providing 100 days employment to each family. Maybe, he is not a mathematics man. Maybe, he is a man with Arts background. I do not know. Maybe, he is not aware that if 27 per cent of people were to be below the poverty line, the average family's strength in this country is said to be 4.5 to 5 people per family. We proposed to provide employment to one person in a family of five. If 28 crores were to be the people below the poverty line and if we divide it by five, then it comes to less than six crores that he is going to provide jobs for 100 days. It does not make seven-and-a-half lakh crore of rupees. Let him calculate once. It is not difficult to provide 100 days employment if the Government is determined.

The very fact that he is going to provide 100 days employment to the rural poor, the people below the poverty line in villages, will make them too happy. The poor people in this country are not jealous. They are not envious of the rich men. All that they want is the basic provision. They want food. They want shelter. They want education. These are the minimum things that they want.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Will you yield for a minute?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Why? No, I am not yielding. We do not want to create any enmity between the rich and the poor. We must be grateful to the poor men in this country for being patient to see great disparities between the rich and the poor. It is the duty of every citizen in this country to come forward voluntarily and donate and help the poor man to the extent that he can. He should not think he became rich by virtue of his talent, by virtue of his wisdom and by virtue of his hard work. No person in this country can ever become rich by sheer sweat, by sheer intelligence and by sheer talent, but for the fact that the poor people are allowing him to become rich. The nation and its Acts or laws are permitting them to become rich either directly or indirectly.

So, if somebody thinks, if somebody is egoistic or proud that he is a rich man and a great man, then he is really living in fools' paradise. He must realise that he is living at the mercy of the poor man. Sir, it is not that the Congress Government has done extensively to change the life of the poor man in the country overnight, but we are thinking in terms of helping the poor man to bring a change in his life at the earliest—faster the better, and it is possible. They are not even thinking of that. You confess. I do not say we have done and they have not done. They do not even think of them. We think of them. We are trying to do something which they have not done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Do not interrupt.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Then, the second aspect, out of the *panch sutra*, they said about is the infrastructure development. What did they do about the infrastructure development? The former Prime Minister and the BJP were beating the drums day in and day out, across the road on the national highways and everywhere saying it is the dream project of Shri Vajpayee and the Prime Minister of this country.

What was that dream project? It was construction of a road. It is a good thing. I do not criticise that but by whom was that to be done? The engineers in this country are competent to construct roads of international standards. We do not need to import any technology from any foreign country. Our engineers have proved their competence and they are proving their competence. In fact, they are not getting an opportunity to prove their competence abroad. If our engineers were to go to America, they would be the best engineers there to construct roads at a lesser cost.

They have talked about pre-qualification where a company that has done a single work of Rs. 500 crore in a year would only be eligible to participate in the bid. In the last 50 years, the Government has not called for even a single tender for a single work of value of Rs. 200 crore. So, how can there be an Indian bidder who has got a history of doing a single work of Rs. 500 crore? Was the Government not aware of that? Or, were they interested in putting out this pre-qualification only to bring in somebody from outside the country?

The unfortunate situation in the country today is that a big construction company in the country like L&T has to take the name of a foreign builder because even they do not have the experience of doing a single work of Rs. 500 crore because there is no precedent here. They

had to approach a company outside the country just for using their name. By lending the name, those people are getting five per cent of the total value of the contract. This means, knowingly the Government is paying five per cent of the value to the foreign company.

The have now created another sector. We have already got departments and engineers for supervision. They have created another intermediary called consultant. That consultant is a foreigner who does not know the basics of road construction. He does not know the technology. Only a third-rate engineer would come from America or Germany to work here. Only a third-rate engineer who cannot live there, who cannot prove his competence there and who has been discarded there can because of his white skin become a great man here. That Government wanted our local engineers and local builders to subordinate him. I challenge the Members of the BJP in this House to go and see what kind of knowledge our engineers have and what kind of knowledge the consultants with white skin have. This is the kind of infrastructure project they boast off.

What is the requirement for constructing roads? It requires breaking rocks, crushing metal and using bitumen manufactured in our own refineries. So, our own countrymen would be using the same technology and material available here. In the case of communication, I can understand bringing in foreigners because we do not have the technology and extensive research has been done outside the country. In that sector, we have to work with imported technology, adopting new methods for getting things done. Here, in the case of road construction, there is no need to bring in foreigners. So, they would not have done that unless they had some personal interest. I do not attribute any motive to the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. That is not my intention. Is it that they had never given a thought to the fact that there has not been a single occasion where a single work worth Rs. 500 crore was done in India? I wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister asking him to save the country and stating that there was no need to bring in foreigners or foreign companies. The country is losing so much. I did not get any response. Of course, I did not make fuss about this. So, this is the way in which they were managing the infrastructure. ...*(Interruptions)*

Then, I come to agriculture and related aspects. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him. The hon. Members from this side did not interrupt when Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: They mentioned that out of the *panch* priorities, the agriculture and related aspects including the irrigation was one of their five priorities. What did they do for agriculture? I quote from their own speech:

"Agricultural diversification into Horticulture."

What type of horticulture is it? Is it hitech horticulture? Then, for Greenhouses and sericulture, they had provided Rs 50 crore. In what manner they improved the agriculture? They said that they extended the repayment period to nine years for sugar mills by which they encouraged the agriculture. They allowed the sugar mills to repay their loans because the stocks had been held in their factories by which they were improving the agriculture.

Now, I come to plantations—tea, coffee, rubber etc. What they did was that they provided Rs. 500 crore for Price Stabilisation Fund. As far as animal husbandry is concerned, they themselves said that India is the largest country with largest cattle wealth in the world, which gives employment to 20 million people of this country. It is written by the BJP Government only. What did they do for saving the livestock? They reduced the customs duty on drugs and shrimps. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL (Khed): Which Budget are you talking of? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am talking about the BJP Budget. I am also talking about my Budget. I am comparing my Budget with your Budget. Maybe my friend has missed whether I am talking about the Congress Budget or the BJP Budget. If I were to say Congress Budget, he would have criticised. As he came to know that I am talking about the BJP Budget, he kept quiet.

Now, I come to credit availability to the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* I am repeating that it is your Budget. It is last year's BJP Budget. It is mentioned in the Budget to encourage private banks to open branches in rural areas. It is excellent. But, at the same time, in the next sentence it is mentioned that rural banks are not prepared to open their branches in the rural areas. While they said that they were going to encourage agriculture by

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asking the nationalised banks or the private banks to start branches in the rural areas, in the next sentence it is mentioned that they are reluctant to open branches. It is mentioned in the same speech. They mentioned about two per cent more interest rate to best bank customers. Suppose, an export man gets a loan at 13 per cent, they will give it two per cent more. You compare it with a businessman. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. There are a number of other hon. Members who want to participate in the discussion. You mention only the points.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Now, I come to Self-Help Groups. They mentioned about Bank Linkage Programme. They also mentioned about 25 lakh BPL families. It is a good thing. I support the Self-Help Groups. I am not criticising it. It can be in a much bigger way.

I visited my constituency a couple of days back. I saw that loans were being made available by commercial banks at 8.5 per cent. Suppose, earlier a farmer took Rs. 20,000, unless he paid back Rs. 20,000 plus interest at one time, bankers never used to take back, but today if he takes Rs. 20,000 as a loan and after one month if he returns back Rs. 20,000, he can get the interest reduced.

The facility is giving. Today the bankers are going to the villages and the borrowers and they are telling that 'we are prepared to give you the loans'. A change is occurring in the last two months in the villages. I felt very happy. The bankers are coming to the houses of the borrowers, the agricultural borrowers. The agriculturist is not a criminal.

You take the fertilizer subsidy. They reduced the subsidy and increased the price of fertilizer in the last Budget by ten to twelve rupees per bag. This is what they did for encouraging the farmers and the agriculture. They did not reduce the price. In the same vein, please see this. I was seeing the newspapers of those days. They say—'sops given—car, air-conditioner, liquor cheaper'. This is your Budget, this is last year's Budget. The fertilizer price was up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: We know our Budget. You speak about your Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): In the next year's Budget we will implement all your suggestions. Please wait. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, somebody was telling the other day, some Opposition Member has made a comment on this Budget that this Budget did not mention anything about linking of rivers. What have you done on linking of rivers? Hon. Member Shri Suresh Prabhu is here. He is now trying to get up. He had a Task Force made. I have great respect for him. I know his character, his integrity and his commitment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): He was removed for the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: Possibly because of that, I agree.

Sir, the biggest resources in the country are human resources and water. The importance is there. Even today I am proud to say that the name of the Ministry of Education was changed to the Ministry of Human Resource Development by our great leader Rajiv Gandhi. Earlier it was called the Ministry of Education. Later it was changed as Ministry of Human Resource Development. Today we are talking about human resource development and it is only from that day.

We have the biggest wealth of human resource. It is for us to improve the value of our human resource. Sir, you are also a party to this. Whenever any hon. Member asks the hon. Minister that 'in my constituency this project is very important, it is going to cultivate 50,000 acres etc.' the hon. Minister will say—'what the hon. Member says is excellent; it is a good suggestion; the project is needed, it has to be taken up; but I regret that because of constraint of resource...' Where will the resource come from? I sit only by printing of the currency? It is by generation of wealth. How do you generate wealth? Unless you make your citizens, your people competent, you cannot generate wealth.

I will tell you today and I have the calculations here. If only the skills of the people who are in the working age of 18 to 55 or 60 years we can generate more money. There are 500 million people in this group. If the skills of each individual were to go up it will increase the wealth. If an unskilled man were to come to you for work, you may pay him Rs. 50 per day. But if you want a good carpenter or a good auto mechanic, you are ready to pay him Rs. 200. Why is it so? It is because of the difference in skills. This man works for eight hours only and that man also works for eight hours only. If we were to increase the skills of the citizens in this group, 50 crore of people who are there, that will increase the skills and if you take the value of increased skills as



Rs. 50 per day, then we are getting Rs. 6,25,000 crore wealth generated every year. Today's GDP is Rs. 27,00,000 crore. That means we can increase the GDP by 25 per cent in one year if we can make all our citizens skilled and competent which we are not doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, please conclude now.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, Sir. My Minister has realised the importance of human resource development. That is why he has provided money for education. If he were to really implement all these schemes, the question of wherefrom the hon. Minister of Finance Shri Chidambaram will get money to finance this project or that project will arise. It is not difficult at all to generate wealth. If he can generate the wealth as I said, the statistics reveal that 12 per cent of the GDP is given as a revenue to the Government and this Rs. 6,25,000 crore of extra wealth that is generated will give him Rs. 75,000 crore per year which can be from human resource development. The hon. Minister has realised it. So, he made this provision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, please conclude now.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, now I will just speak a few words about what my friend Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not reply to him. Please conclude.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes sir. I was not following his language, Hindi fluently. But I could understand tilbits of it. I will only comment on some of the things that he said.

He was trying to say about Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. They cannot find any other person. They are scared of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi so much that whether they sleep or awake, whether it is day or night, they think of only Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. When she was desired by the entire countrymen to be the Prime Minister of this country, it is not a speak to how much *halla-gulla* they had made. They thought that everyday they can sit on the road and make some demonstration. After she refused to become the Prime Minister and preferred to keep Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister, they do not find a subject. They lost the subject. On which issue could they agitate? There was no issue. Thereafter, when the Minister were made, having found no other issue, they started raising the issue of tainted Ministers. Sir, are tainted Ministers only in this Cabinet and were not in their Cabinet? Today,

the hon. Minister for Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad, has made it to clear how they had handled Godhra incident. Now, things will come out.

So, instead of harping on it, and finding out for everything, they have said that he is trying to bring a single amalgamation of all the schemes into another scheme under the same name 'Rajiv Gandhi'. Have they done great things? Originally, they changed it to the name of Deen Dayal or Mukherjee. He himself said this. We have no objection. It is not that we are against it. My point is that now they do not speak of Deen Dayal or Mukherjee; they speak of Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. Have they ever made one scheme under the name of Bhagat Singh? Have they ever named one scheme under the name of Subhash Chandra Bose? Now, they are trying to say as if they are impartial and they are for national theme. They speak about Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

My next point is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made all the points.

SHRI K.S. RAO: They say that they had given back foreign exchange surplus of US \$ 120 billion and they are asking why Shri Chidambaram is not paying back all those loans and getting the benefit of interest. What have they done for six years? What have they done for the last three years? Did it not come to their minds? Today, it has come to their minds. All their wisdom has come out today. It is not so in regard to one thing, but it is so in regard to everything.

He was talking that today suicides are taking place in Andhra Pradesh in a large number. It is not because of any action taken by the present Government which has come two months back. It is a consequence of the rule of TDP Government for the last nine years and the pathetic condition is that the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, has said that because the Government is giving rupees one lakh to the families of those farmers who have committed suicide, the number of suicides has gone up. A farmer is traditionally value-based and he feels shy if he cannot pay his loan back. Imagine, the former Chief Minister says that the farmer is committing suicide because the Government is giving rupees one lakh to his family after his death. Does any responsible Chief Minister speak in this way? Is it not shame?

Further, he says that all the deaths are occurring now because of the Congress. Now, we are trying to

[Shri K.S. Rao]

curb everything. The present Government of Andhra Pradesh has come forward with several steps, not one or two steps. It is so liberal that it gave free power and it is giving loans to the farmers, doubling or tripling the credit, with lesser rate of interest. They are giving Rs. 1.5 lakh to the families of deceased farmers.

My point is that the Opposition Party can criticise the Government. I have no objection to it. Every one of them can criticise, but while criticising, let them think what they have done earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI K.S. RAO: If they had not tasted power and they were in the Opposition all along, that is different. But having been in power for six years, they are now criticising. People are also watching.

In Andhra Pradesh, like Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Chandrababu Naidu was also quoting statistics and speaking about them day in and day out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not bring that here.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Every sentence of Shri Chandrababu Naidu contained statistics. He thought that he could mesmerise people. Now, you see what happened. They have now got about 50 seats.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, you conclude now. I have called Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Now, the BJP, after losing power, is preaching ethics and morals. The countrymen are not going to accept that. Let them realise this. They can criticise. We have no objection.

I support this Budget not because of being a Congressman but because I wholeheartedly believe that the intentions behind this Budget are very good.

17.00 hrs.

We are thinking in terms of helping the poor and developing the rural areas. Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Thank you.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I am requesting through you to the hon. Finance Minister to thank the hon. Member who has just now spoken on the Budget, since his budget is untouched in his speech throughout. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: No. Do you think that Shri Chidambaram's Budget is untouched? I have compared Shri Chidambaram's Budget with that of Shri Jaswant Singh's ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It all right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He did not speak about your Budget, but I will speak on your Budget.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on 8 July 2004. It is a pleasant coincidence that whenever he has been the Finance Minister, we have to support him. ...*(Interruptions)* It had happened during the United Front Government when he was the Finance Minister, and now also it is happening like that only. Why do we support him? They are eager to know the reason for it.

The CMP mentioned about a big event that took place last May and people of this country gave a very clear verdict, and it had two components. One was that the communal forces should be driven out from the seats of power. It was a very clear verdict. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Which communal party was driven out of Kerala? ...*(Interruptions)* You should also speak about the Kerala situation!. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Kharabela Swain, please do not interrupt him during his speech. He is a very senior Member.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I agree with you that he is a very senior Member of this House, but he started speaking about communalism and deviated from speaking on the Budget.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, it was a clear verdict in favour of secularism, pluralism and against the communal forces, who have been ruining this country through their divisive methods and their hidden agenda.

Secondly, it was also a verdict against the anti-people economic policies of the NDA Government which resulted in massive loss of jobs, closure of industries, plight of

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\*Not recorded.

the farmers deteriorating, namely, the farmers committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra etc. We have had discussions here on these issues several times.

1702 hrs.

[SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH *in the Chair*]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Sir, not a single case was reported from Gujarat. This is totally wrong. ...(*Interruptions*) Not a single case was reported in Gujarat. This is not true. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the time taken by them for interrupting me should not be deducted from my time of speaking on the General Budget.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Was there no report of suicide in Karnataka?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain order in the House.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, kindly ask him to withdraw his words, otherwise he will have to authenticate all that he has said just now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Let him speak. ...(*Interruptions*) I can manage them. You please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Sir, I would request you to kindly expunge the word used by him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let there be order in the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: They follow a new type of fascism. They do not care for the Parliament, they do not care for the parliamentary norms, they do not care for the democratic conventions, and they do not care for anything like that. ...(*Interruptions*) So, they will get their own time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, nobody is following the conventions, and everybody is shouting. I would request that we should behave like hon. Members. Everybody is shouting. I would request that we should behave like hon. Members. Everybody is shouting from this side, and from the other side also everybody is doing it. I would request everybody to maintain the decorum of the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was a clear verdict against the communal forces and also another verdict against

the neo-liberal policies pursued by this NDA Government. Look at what happened? The poster boys of economic reforms, he was speaking about them, Chandrababu Naidu. The 'Bills' of the world like Bill Gates and Bill Clinton gave certificates. Where is that person? Only two persons representing his Party in Andhra Pradesh are here. This is not true of Andhra Pradesh only. All the other poster boys of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala have been washed out.

What is the fate of the other supporters of the anti-people economic policies? What happened to Trinamool Congress? In one area of South Kolkata, there is a poster of Trinamool Congress which says, "We have no branch; we have only one branch in South Kolkata. There is no other branch." However, still, they call it National Trinamool Congress: A National or All India Trinamool Congress without any branch! ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Why have you not gone beyond West Bengal and Kerala? Why did you concentrate only on Kerala and West Bengal? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please address the Chair. Please do not indulge in cross-talking. Hon. Member, please take your seat. There should be no cross-talk. Please sit down. Shri Pal, you are supposed to address the Chair and you should not indulge in cross-talking.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall come to that. You claimed and told the public, "India Shining", "*Bharat Uday*", and what has happened during the NDA regime never happened in the last five decades. What were the facts? The *per capita* foodgrains availability during your regime was less than what it was in 1951-52.

What is the condition of employment? The Minister himself, Shri Sahib Singh Verma, admitted, "that we destroyed, taking pride, about 8.5 lakh employment opportunities in the public sector. "What do the reports of the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Task Force and the S.P. Gupta Committee say about this? They say that the employment situation is horrible; it is going down, particularly in the rural areas.

We congratulate this Government because they have changed the track. They are addressing the rural issues, the issues of rural employment, the issues of rural poverty

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

and the empowerment of the underprivileged. Maybe, it is not as much adequate as we expected from them. We try to judge them by asking, "Is there any serious attempt?" Yes, we put them to test. We do not conclude everything by one day's performance. For full five years, This Government will be there and you do not have to worry about it. We shall go on supporting them. Simultaneously, if there is a wrong committed by them, we shall tell the people that we supported them because of such and such reason, but they have committed these wrongs and we shall try to correct them. ...*(Interruptions)*

Do not have any such illusions. The communal forces will never be allowed to come to power again. With the assurance, the Left Front has come back, for the first time in independent India, with a larger number of MPs than any other political party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is because you have defeated the Congress in Kerala and, that is how, you have increased your numbers. ...*(Interruptions)* Is this true or not? Tell us. ...*(Interruptions)* Have you not increased your numbers here by increasing your numbers in Kerala? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You are getting so perturbed when I have just started. I do not know what will happen later. I have just started. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You speak sense, we will listen.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): You fought with the Congress in Kerala and you are supporting it here. ...*(Interruptions)* That is your economics. You never fought with BJP in Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* If you have guts, have a coalition with Congress in Kerala and we will see what will happen. ...*(Interruptions)* Even you do not know when you will change colour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing except what Shri Rupchand Pal says is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, look at the level of their frustration.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling everybody.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious issue. While

\*Not recorded.

discussion is going on on the budget, the hon'ble Member has the right to put his views but frequent interruptions are taking place. There is need of your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Uproar is coming from all issues.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Have I any right to speak or not.

*[English]*

Let the people of this country know whether I have any right to speak here or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Mr. Pal, I am requesting all the sides of the House to maintain decorum.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please give me your protection, Sir.

*[Translation]*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not ready to listen to him if he continues delivering political speeches as it is done on the roads. We are sitting here to listen discussion on general budget. Therefore he should speak on the budget only.

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, world over an exercise of re-assessment, redefinition and relook is undertaken into the neo-liberal policies that are being followed in the liberal countries. Many eminent people have come out with their writings on this. Nobel Laureate and the Chief Economic Advisor of the Economic Council of the President of America Joseph Stiglitz and many others have come out openly on this. It is because during the past one and a half decade of the reform process, inequality has grown. Rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. The mute voice of millions has gone unheard. They say that the benefits of reforms are being appropriated by a handful of people.

This is the voice at the World Social Forum; this is the voice in ILO. I am very briefly reading from a part of the 92nd Conference of ILO. The title of the Report is: "What is applicable to globalisation is equally applicable to the process of liberalisation within the country". What does it say? It says the current path of globalisation—

you can take it for liberalisation also—must change. I repeat, 'must change'. This is the verdict of the Indian masses also; our countrymen also in the last May elections. Too few share its benefits, too many have no voice in this design and no power to influence its course. This is the Government we are trying to address the issue. The CMP says that the people of India have voted decisively in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha elections for Secular Progressive forces who are wedded to the welfare of farmers, agriculture labour, weavers, workers and weaker sections of society who are committed to the daily well being of the common man across the country. This is why we support. This is a commitment of this Government. People are looking forward to find how much reflection is there in the Budget. After all in the CMP, now you can call NCMP, the policy and programme part has been announced but the concrete implementation proposal is expected from the Budget proposals.

Here, I must say that we are not unhappy. We are not disheartened but this does not mean there is cause for jubilation for us. There are areas which I think could have been addressed in a better manner. I am just giving two or three examples, not more. For example, employment generation. Rural employment generation is an area which is vital to the welfare of the Indian masses. In the Ministry of Rural Development & Rural Employment, *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)*, what do you find? There is a decrease of about 52 per cent from the interim Budget.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think we should correct this impression. The correct method of comparison is Budget Estimate to Budget Estimate. You never compare Budget Estimate to Revised Estimate. You will compare the Revised Estimate when I make the Revised estimate. If you look at *Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana*, Budget Estimate for 2003-04 was Rs. 4,487 crore and in Budget Estimate for 2004-05, it is Rs. 4,598 crore. Revised Estimate when it comes please compare that with the Revised Estimates. I think, this must be made clear. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I accept.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Can I intervene for a minute?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, please.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister—I am going to speak later

on—as he has rightly pointed out the Revised Estimate is not the actual estimate because he has got all the figures on 13th of June. How can you say that revised Estimate is not the actual estimate? If it would have been in February or March, we can say that Revised Estimate is Revised Estimate. You had all the data when you presented the Budget recently. I am very sorry to say that you have no actual data. Revised Estimate, I personally think, is the actual receipts of the Budget. How it can be Revised Estimate because it has been presented before the House a few days ago.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Budget last year provided only Rs. 4,487 crore. At supplementary stage, more money was provided. That is normal. The provision of the supplementary stage which is reflected in the Revised Estimates, is Rs. 9,640 crore. We are making the budgetary estimates now at this stage of Rs. 4,590 crore. If you want to compare with the ultimate Revised Estimates, you must wait for the supplementary provisions that we will make later. So, the comparison is always—my dear friend—Budget Estimates with the Budget Estimates. Ask this question after making the Revised Estimates.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is why I tried to mention that during the last five years tenure, what has happened, and now what has happened during this Budget. Let us wait for a few months and look forward in February next there is a better allocation.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: That is an allocation.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes. It is implementation also.

Sir, I welcome the provision made in the Budget for education to raise it to six per cent. There is a two per cent education cess across the board for everyone including service tax, excise, customs, income etc. Now, for this year, I think, roughly—I may be corrected if I am wrong—Rs. 2,600 and odd crore may be collected till February next out of only Rs. 4,000 crore. Now, for this year, Rs. 1,000 crore has been provided. What is going to happen to the other Rs. 1,600 crore? Mr. Minister, when you reply to the debate, you may state about it.

This amount of Rs. 10,000 crore for plan, in addition to what was already there, taking the figure to Rs. 1,45,000 and odd crore,—if I am not mistaken—includes the education cess amount. This amount will depend on how the Planning Commission formulates all this. It is left to the Planning Commission. It is not under any Head. How it can be assured, is the point.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Mr. Minister, you have spoken in your Budget Speech: "I can assure that education cess will be used for this particular purpose only." But how? It is because, our experience in the case of earlier cess is that it was put into the Central kitty and hardly was given for the purpose for which it was taken. On this, I want to give a caution that it should be made very clear. So is the case about other provisions. Whatever is imposed, should be used for the specific purpose, particularly about the education cess.

There is one more caution which I need to give you, Mr. Minister. It is across the board on all sorts of taxes. I support it. Taking into account the service tax and this one, it may cause some inflationary pressure. How would this particular issue be addressed? That is left to you, Mr. Minister. Still, I support it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are certain areas which this Government has, might be inadvertently, ignored. For example, NCMP says about the universalisation of the ICDS. But the provision for ICDS is too meagre. But it is a very very important project. The NCMP says about universalisation, taking into account the success story. So is the provision relating to health, health insurance. I think that better provision would be made. But I do not dispute the plea of the hon. Minister that it was only 40 days exercise. He had little time to address all the issues, and he will rectify the position according to the NCMP spirit when he presents his next Budget.

Here, I must mention that people have great expectations, particularly after this new Government has come in. They are looking forward as to how this Government is going to provide money urgently to programmes like food for work, PDS, employment in rural areas, etc.

But the manoeuvrability of the budgetary exercise is very very limited. If you take into account the interest payments, which are pre-determined, salary, subsidy, defence and if you also take into account the plan allocation, I think, hardly three per cent is left. I have tried to calculate it. It comes to 63.7 per cent which is pre-determined, like interest payment, subsidy, etc. So, how much could you manoeuvre? In a poor country like India, this is another area where we must have discussions.

There is a wrong idea that the Left is against economic reforms. This is the monopoly of the Economic Writers of the Pink Papers. What is it for? For whom?

To serve whose interests? You may determine the direction. We have undertaken massive land reforms. Are they not reforms? Has it not given purchasing power to rural Bengal? Even after all this wrongful noise by the Media, by unwarranted and undesirable intervention from quarters which we do not want to mention here, people have given massive verdict. Why? It is because in the rural areas, we have undertaken the real reforms, to cater to the urgent needs of the poorer sections of the people, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, etc. We empowered people through successful panchayati raj system. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you five minutes more.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall do it.

I have mentioned about the limitation of manoeuvrability. But still the Minister is depending heavily on higher revenue growth. It is more than 24 per cent. If there is any lapse anywhere, what will happen to the projects? That is the question. He is depending too much on one area. He says that there are large recoverable areas, in both direct and indirect taxes. Even the undisputed areas are quite substantial.

There is one report given by the hon. Minister of State in the other House saying that an amount of Rs. 1,03,300 crore is lying as dues in different taxes like income tax, corporation tax, etc. Out of that someone has calculated—I do not know—that the undisputed one is to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crore. I do not know whether that is so much massive or not. But there is no mention about tax evasion. There is no mention about black money; there is a commitment in the CMP to unearth black money, which is running a parallel economy.

I asked once as to how many people in this country show in their returns, their income as more than Rs. 10 lakh annually. Someone gave me some figure; and now, the Minister also publicly said that it is 75,000, in a country where the number of assesses is 3.4 crore. People paying tax will be to the tune of 2.7 crore. Now, 1.4 crore people have to be taken out because of raising of income limit to Rs. 1 lakh, etc. Out of that, only 75,000 people in South Delhi—someone gave me some figure— or in some such areas have annual income of more than Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh, in a particular year. I have calculated that five lakh Indians purchase luxury cars pricing more than Rs. 15 lakh. The Minister has rightly mentioned. This is surprising, considering the fact that

we have 4.6 million Indians who are touring outside the country, going to Singapore, going to Malaysia, going to Switzerland, etc. It is 4.6 millions. This is the area which we should see. Even yesterday the C&AG has come out with an observation about MAT, zero tax companies, to ensure that they pay something. More than 6000 companies, this way or that way, have evaded tax. So, tax evasion is an area where the Minister should concentrate. It was said that if we bring down the rate then the people would comply. I read an article about the Indian psyche. No, Indian psyche is different. Whatever award we may declare for the best tax payer, it will not be complied with, rather the best income tax payer, Shri Shankar Sharma, because of his investment in Teheika, was put behind the bar. We asked in the JPC as to what happened to that person as he was a professional and had invested money in Teheika which had unmasked the shady Defence deals involving the former Defence Minister. But till today this person is not allowed to function properly in the capital market. Those who pay tax are never rewarded rather it is those who escape tax. I request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this area.

About disinvestment, we have our own philosophy and they have their own. We do not think that the loss-making companies should be allowed to go on compensating everything from the Government exchequer. No. But, look at the Steel Authority of India. Given a proper support even a loss-making company can turn around. It has happened in the case of SAIL and many others. I could mention a number of them. The Minister proposes to set up a Board for that. Is it a Board for restructuring or a Board for disinvestment, desperate disinvestment giving a hotel to my friend who again sells it with a profit margin? Giving something, trying to sell out profit-making oil companies from public monopoly to private monopoly in gas. The Left is not against everything that is good for the country. We have our rationale. Who allows insurance? Does America allow insurance? I have gone through the Papers. The Japanese multinational companies are approaching America. About 50 different kinds of law are covering them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pal, please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding in a few minutes.

We are opposed to these Budget items; raising the limit in the case of foreign equity, insurance, telecom and civil aviation. He knows it better than I do. You do not know, when the insurance was proposed to be opened

up, you might have read my Note of Dissent in the Standing Committee. Do you remember what happened here? The Prime Minister came and something happened. Members know everything. Our position, our view in this matter is well known to the world. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have committed insurance to the people of this country. When you come back to power you can raise the foreign equity. Do not speak about it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, I am not yielding. Sir, they have taken a lot of my time. I am just concluding.

Even NTPC has five per cent of disinvestment. I have gone through the prospectus. This is not an acceptable argument. NTPC is a giant. There is a commitment under the CMP that the profit-making undertakings will not be vacated in any manner. There will be no privatisation and no disinvestment. We have reservation about this proposal of NTPC also.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: They have only uncorked the red wine bottle. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Shri Bangarappa, you are such a senior Member. Why are you interrupting? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Now, I come to private telecom companies. The major contribution providing rural telephones has been from the Government operator, namely, BSNL, who suffered huge loss of Rs. 4000 crore. Then simultaneously, it is said that the foreign companies and the private companies have not shown much interest in providing telephone connections in rural areas. So has happened in the case of insurance and marine insurance. The cake will be eaten by Metlife, Sunlife and all others. Even the national private operators are quite worried. We shall make our points when the Bill comes up. We shall oppose it. On these things, our viewpoints are known to the world.

As regards raising of excise duties on steel and import liberalisation, it will cause disaster to the domestic steel sector. We are also concerned about it. In our part, a good number of new steel plants have been set up.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

As regards small scale industries, there is a proposal for de-reservation of a number of items while trying to provide some relief, succour, and encouragement to the SSI sector. I am just reading one report about Gujarat. What has happened to Gujarat apart from the carnage and shameful acts of mass communal killings? What happened to Gujarat's economy. I have many other examples but I have selected Gujarat's economy. I have many other examples but I have selected Gujarat because you take pride in Gujarat. So much has gone to Gujarat which others have not got. It says that at least 20,000 small units have been closed down in Gujarat in the last two years, which is Narendra Modi regime, thirty per cent of the unorganised workers have been rendered jobless. Once known as Manchester of India, Ahmedabad is now witness to thousands of workers having hard times, pulling carts and doing whatever they can manage. It is true. ...*(Interruptions)*. You admit it. What did you do? You did not do anything.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: These textile mills were closed in 1985 in the Congress regime. I am mentioning it because I represent that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am talking about SSI units. I urge upon Government to provide adequate support. This is the most labour intensive sector. It provides the largest number of employment and it also has export potential. So many times China is referred to. What has happened to China, the Minister knows it. How they have integrated the small cottage industries into the branded MNCs. The manufacturing sector is one area, neglecting which, you cannot address the issue of job creation. It has been rightly mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you obstructing him? You had been the Chief Minister. Please do not do that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, about the Value Added Tax I would like to submit that it is a welcome measure but it would have to pass through some complicated experiences and the hon. Minister would have to address this issue. It is not so simple. There are problems in regard to this even in developing countries.

Sir, I would refer to two more points and conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. This is your last point.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is about the Centre-State relations. It is very important for all of us. Everyone will support me on this. This is about re-structuring of the Centre-State financial relations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You promised that you would make two points and then conclude. This is your last point.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we appreciate the measures taken by this Government. They have brought down the interest rate from 10.5 per cent to nine per cent. It is a good measure. Of course, this was initiated by the previous Government. But in its totality, the State Governments are in distress; they are in deep debt and the situation should be salvaged. What measures should be taken to salvage this situation can be worked out by the hon. Minister and the Government. Until the States are self-sufficient, the States are strong, the State have their own avenues for resource generation, how could the programmes enunciated in the CMP be implemented?

Sir, I would conclude with one observation about which this Government and the hon. Finance Minister have been quite fetish, and that is about fiscal responsibility and Budgetary management. There is a good food stock in the country. It has got a good food stock with an embarrassingly high foreign exchange. We cannot absorb it. May be, it is hot money and it is encouraging the FIIs to invest more in this country. We know what the previous Government did and what Ketan Parikh did. Now, in such a situation, the economic measures should be expansionary. Why should the Government be fetish and say that they have brought down the revenue deficit to 2.5 per cent and that they have brought down the fiscal deficit to such and such level? Why should it be so? We must have our own model and not the model of Fund-Bank. The Washington Consensus has been rejected. Let us look at Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and also at the Resolutions of the ILO and the World Social Forum. The Government must have a re-look at this. We should, of course, be prudent. We should, of course, stop wastage. But at whose cost is this expenditure cut taking place? Should there not be appointments? Should the vacancies not be filled up? Should the tax burden be only on the employees and the luxury expenditure should continue? I do not know. It is not such a sacred thing that it should be done without caring for all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am concluding. The Left Parties support this Budget with an assurance that



the NDA Government will never be allowed to come again either through the front door or through the back door. We may have differences in our views, but we shall settle those through dialogues and let the people know who is correct—the Left or the advocates of reforms who wants to continue with the liberalisation process. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Singh. But let me remind you that the House will adjourn at 6 PM Today.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate Chidambaram Sahib for presenting a good budget under such difficult situation and various kinds of pressures, he was not able to present better budget than it. It is our compulsion that we are supporter of the Progressive Alliance but we are not partners of it, hence it is not our responsibility to support all the provisions of the budget blindly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, broadly, I support the budget but I have no hesitation in pointing out the issues on which we have different opinions. I would like to discuss them. When globalisation was in the full swing in all the countries, some people, in the last decade of previous century had dreamt to alleviate poverty from the world by bringing the whole world under the umbrella of one economy and by increasing the pace of national progress of all developing and under developed countries of the world. But after ten years when they reviewed their policies they themselves came to this conclusion that.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, there is no quorum in the House. It should be ten per cent of the total strength. You may just check up. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have counted it. There is no quorum in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): There is quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House adjourn at 6 PM today.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PRANJPE: That is a separate thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Quorum is already there. ...*(Interruptions)* The Ruling Party should maintain quorum and the Opposition Party should also maintain decorum. It will be good if both follow each-other. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want the quorum bell to be rung and get delayed?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, it is the duty of the ruling party to maintain quorum in the House. Now there is no quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Paranjpe, there is quorum in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Now the followers of policies say after their review that out of six billion population, two billion population have gone below poverty line. Unequality has increased in the world, hoarding and monopoly of money has begun and economic disparity has increased rapidly. China, which is mentioned widely and it is said that they have accepted most of the new economic policies and have made progress on account of investment of foreign capital, but today, China itself is not taking it as real progress. Unequality is increasing in our country, unemployment is increasing in our country and on account of the unemployment the poverty is increasing in our country. Therefore, that policy is being reconsidered in China also.

In the beginning of his speech, Chidambaram Sahib said that the mandate of the country is meant for a change. I would like to know whether this change is not for change in economic policies? Whether the compliance of those same policies which the opposition used to, is not the violation of the mandate? As per the budget speech of hon'ble Minister of Finance himself the mandate they have got is for a change. In which field change has been made? As far as I understand, this terminology means, the change should be made in all fields, namely, in economic sector, agricultural sector, industrial sector, social sector. When I try to go through the details of budget, I feel that he mentioned the term 'Change' but there is no possibility of change in the policies. I have different opinion on this issue that the hon'ble Minister of

[Shri Mohan Singh]

Finance has mentioned in his budget speech that investment of foreign capital would be increased to 74 percent from 40 percent, to 49 percent from 40 percent and to 49 percent from 26 percent in telecommunication, civil aviation and insurance sector respectively. Our party strongly oppose this kind of foreign capital investment. Hence, we completely oppose the percentage increase in the rate of capital investment. I would like to clearly tell this Government that if any legislation to this effect is brought, we will oppose.

Secondly, I would like to tell that the Central Government should take lesson from their experiences regarding foreign capital investment. An American Power Company Enron came here in infrastructure sector. They looted Rs. Three thousand and five hundred crore of the financial institutions of this country and went back. We do not have any kind of control on them so as we can get back that capital. Daewoo, a Korean motor car manufacturing company came here and having looted capital worth Rs. 1300 crore of the financial institutions in this country went back and we do not have control on them. Conditions of ASEAN countries have deteriorated during last three years. The reason behind the deterioration was that they invested the foreign capitals in their countries indiscriminately. Malaysia, a small country started saying patting their back that they had constructed the most magnificent airport of the world in their country with the help of foreign capital and when they could not recover the capital the economic progress of that country got obstructed. There was a situation of recession in all the ASEAN countries for 7-8 years. The Government of India should seriously think about it. Therefore, the first point of our opposition is investment of foreign capital that is being made indiscriminately as I fully remember that than the BJP led Government started importing of the foreign goods indiscriminately and when disinvestment started without any obstruction, a delegation of Congress Party led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi met the then Prime Minister and opposed the investment of Foreign capital in the infrastructure sector of the public i.e in insurance sector. At that time, responding them, the Prime Minister said that the policies which they were following those days, were the policies made by Congress itself. Those were not their policies. We have no expectation atleast from Chidambaram Sahib who has the experience of presenting progressive budget that he may blindly invest the Foreign capital in a hurry in these sectors. We expect that he will reconsider the matter.

The second question is that about giving special package to the backward states, the hon'ble Minister of

Finance has rightly said in his budget speech that Rs. 3238 crore was not released from the announced package of Bihar. He announced to allocate only that amount and he may increase the amount in future if it is needed. He is to allocate more than Rs. 5000 crore to the North-Eastern states and to Rs. 300 crore to the state of Jammu and Kashmir as a grant. About the remaining states he said that a commission will be set-up. That commission will start functioning after one year. That is to say, the commission will start functioning in the year 2006 with a capital of Rs. 25,000 crores and that capital will be allocated to the poor states within five years. The hon'ble Minister of Finance, in his budget speech, has stated that by doing so they will be paying attention towards the poorest people of the state like Uttar Pradesh which comes at second or third number from bottom in poverty, the state where even today 31 percent of poor people live below poverty line. Out of the total 17 crore 30 lakh population or the state having 3 crore poorest people. But the hon'ble Minister is fixing two years time for giving special package to the state where the poorest among poor of this country live. Before whom should we appeal? Therefore, I would like to appeal the hon'ble Minister of Finance that some temporary provision should be made for the basic problems prevailing as on date especially electricity, drinking water and irrigation for which we have demanded Rs. four thousand five hundred crore, two thousand five hundred crore and one thousand five hundred crore till the commission the amount of Rs. 25,000 crores after two years.

Third reason for our opposition is—VAT. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has announced that VAT will be effective all over the country w.e.f. April, 2005. Majority of the traders section of this country is against this system. If he goes through my budget speeches of 1991 he will find that I, myself, had supported the Value Added Tax System. But, as on date, if a new tax system is introduced under the pressure of big industrial federations, multinational companies, which will have impact on majority trader society, it will be a step taken in haste. This is true that many states in India have supported it and the Central Government have said that the losses incurred to the states by enforcing this system will be borne by the Central budget. He says that our deficit will be only 2.5 percent in comparison to the gross domestic production. But, if the tradition of compensating the deficit of states through Central budget continues, I think his claim will not come true. On behalf of my party, I would like to request him that he should hold talks with the traders' associations and resolve their doubts in this regard. 15th should not be treated as the final date to enforce it rather the date should be further extended.

Our hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented, after so many year, agriculture-based budget. Probably, Choudhari Charan Singh Ji had given some importance to agriculture, rural areas and farmers in his budget presented in the House in the year 1978-79. At that time intellectual people had opposed saying that it was wrong, because the common people of the society, rural society were talked about in the budget. I am glad for the announcement made by the hon'ble Minister of Finance that no excise duty will be levied on tractor and agriculture-based equipments. But at the same time he increased the excise duty on steel by four percent. Companies manufacturing tractor and agricultural equipments say that the cost incurred on the produce will have no effect on them. These items will be as costly when these reach the farmers as these were prior to the provision of subsidy. Therefore, in reality subsidy hardly matters. The subsidy given to farmers goes to companies in place of farmers. e.g. subsidy on fertilizers is availed by the manufacturers and not by the farmers. hence the farmers do not get benefited. Therefore, to

benefit them the subsidy on tractor, agriculture-based equipments and fertilizers should be directly given to the farmers while purchasing. The benefit given to the companies never transfer to the farmers or consumers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohan Singhji, as it is already 6 p.m., you may continue your speech tomorrow.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: It's all right.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, July 15, 2004 at 11 a.m.

1759 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, July 15, 2004/Asadha 24, 1926 (Saka)*

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